Kidnapped Spanish priest backs Fr. Nacorda raps

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Study discovers secrets of youth

BAKIT KAYA AKO NAPAG-KAMALANG MATANDA?

PARIS—Baldness, smoking and bingeing on fast food are likely to make you look much older than you really are, but drinking alcohol will have no impact, according

STUDY/ A18

IN *Saturday*SPECIAL

- Freddie Prinze Jr. still enjoys being a teen idol
- Focus on Asian films
- Film nudity challenges young performers
- Uma Thurman to grace Toronto filmfest

PRINZE

Purge PNP, Gloria urged

Rosebud's saga: Sex, lies, drugs and videotape

BY CARLITO PABLO
AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

SHE said he was a "woman beater."

He said she was "a stalker."

He said they never slept together.

She said she had photographs and a videotape to prove that they did.

And even though former NarcGroup officer Supt. John Campos protested that he didn't "want this to turn into a love story," his relationship with former undercover agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong by then had captured the public's fascination.

In a riveting sideshow to the money laundering and drug trading controversy involving Sen. Panfilo Lacson and his accuser, military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus, Ong and Campos, her former case-handler, traded heated words live on television Thursday night.

Ong and Campos went on air on GMA-7's "Debate" from separate locations, stealing the show from the two guest debate panels.

Campos insisted that he had never loved Ong and that all they had was a mere handler-to-agent arrangement.

"She's claiming a relationship . . . I'm sorry," Campos said. "I don't want this to become a love story."

Ong quickly countered: "In the next Senate hearing—and this is near—I will present a videotape to show we were sleeping together."

The studio audience roared.

But Ong did not stop there. "There is also a videotape *na kamatis ang aking mukha* (in which my face looks like a tomato)," she said, alluding to Campos' alleged beatings when they supposedly lived together.

Campos objected: "That's below the belt!"

Ong also said the officer and his wife separated because the police officer had a heavy hand, adding that the wife cited this as the reason for seeking an annulment.

"That's too personal," Campos protested again.

ROSEBUD/ A5

Texters win TRO vs Globe, Smart

BY ABIGAIL L. HO
AND ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

SCORE one for Generation Text.

The Quezon City Regional Trial Court yesterday issued a temporary restraining order against the country's cellular phone companies, preventing them from implementing their plan to slash the monthly allocation of free text messages by as much as two-thirds.

Judge Modesto Juanson issued a one-page order that compelled Globe Telecom Inc., Smart Communications Inc., Isla Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. to stop from enforcing any reductions in the next 20 days.

"They cannot do anything for the next 20 days. The initial hearing for preliminary injunction will take place on Monday," said Rod Domingo, legal counsel for the main complainant, the Philippine League for Democratic Telecommunications Inc. (PLDTI).

"This is a victory for texters who stood their ground against gigantic monopolies. We thank the court for upholding consumer rights over super-profiteering by already lucrative businesses especially in the midst of economic gloom," said Anthony Ian Cruz, spokesperson for TXTPower, a loose group of mobile phone users.

TEXTERS/ A18

EMOTIONAL moment for Cardinal Sin and the new auxiliary bishop of Manila, Most Rev. Socrates Villegas, after the latter's episcopal ordination on Friday, also the cardinal's 73rd birthday. EDWIN BACASMAS

Barbed-wire crest for new bishop

USUALLY associated with warfare, barbed wire is now enshrined in the newly minted coat of arms of a newly ordained bishop whose motto is "pax" (Latin for peace).

The barbed wire is an affirmation by the new bishop, the Most Reverend Socrates "Soc" Villegas, that his pastoral ministry has been shaped by People Power I and II.

The two women who were catapulted to power by the twin Edsa People Power events were present at Villegas' episcopal ordination yesterday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Corazon Aquino shared seats with Chief Justice Hilario Davide and Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Joy and tears and love swept through the cavernous Manila Cathedral during the ordination rites of Villegas, the new auxiliary bishop of Manila. At 40, Villegas is the country's youngest bishop.

His widowed mother Norma held her son

BARBED-WIRE/ A18

"EDSA Shrine, I love you," says Bishop Villegas after his ordination. At 40, he's the country's youngest bishop.

President calls manifesto plot to divide PNP

BY CARLITO PABLO
AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

A MANIFESTO from a group calling itself "officers of the PNP Corps" is asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to seek the courtesy resignation of all police generals to allow her to make a thorough cleanup of the Philippine National Police.

The President, however, appeared inclined to believe that there was a "sinister" attempt to divide the PNP. In a prepared statement she read yesterday she pointed out that past officers were the ones being linked to drug trafficking.

"Let us not fall prey to the sinister designs of unscrupulous people who may want to drive a cleavage between the ranks of the PNP to further their own ends," she said.

She reiterated her faith in the PNP and noted that she had recognized its men's acts of heroism, especially during the May 1 siege of Malacañang by forces loyal to deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The manifesto, which was being circulated in Camp Crame, said it was one thing for ranking officers to be named protectors of "nefarious activities" like *jueteng* and other forms of illegal gambling.

"But for officers at the highest level to be associated with the illegal trade of drug organizations is . . . not acceptable and beyond comprehension," the group said. "It is time for a serious purging of our ranks."

Including PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza who holds a four-star rank, there are 64 police generals, plus those on "floating" status.

The unnamed officers who issued the manifesto pointed out that deep purges were not new in the PNP.

They said that in 1992, then President Fidel Ramos convened a nine-member committee led

PURGE/ A4

Gloria to Ping: Don't blame me for your woes

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday denied Sen. Panfilo Lacson's earlier accusation that she was behind the supposed smear campaign against him and said he should not blame her for his present problems.

In a statement that she said she wrote herself and that she read at the start of her press conference, the President broke her silence on the alleged involvement of the ex-chief of the Philippine National Police in kidnapping for ransom, murder, drug trafficking and money laundering.

Ms Macapagal said most of the criminal activities allegedly involving Lacson happened before she became President and were disclosed by people "he knew."

GLORIA/ A5

When 'all right' is not all right

BY CARLITO PABLO
AND VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

IT WAS all wrong for Sen. Panfilo Lacson to ask Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes if the latter was "all right," according to some of their fellow graduates from the Philippine Military Academy.

When Lacson, a member of PMA Class 1971, challenged Reyes, a "mistah" of PMA Class 1966, with the question "All right, sir?" at the Senate on Thursday, should Reyes have responded in kind?

In PMA circles, the phrase "all right" is an honor-code pledge of truthfulness, representing

WHEN/ A18

54 firetraps listed, recommended for closure

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

WHAT do the Hotel Inter-Continental, the Philippine General Hospital and the Securities and Exchange Commission have in common?

They are all potential death traps, according to the Bureau of Fire Protection, which disclosed at a Senate hearing yesterday a list of 54 buildings in Metro Manila it considers firetraps—a list which includes at least 11 hospitals, four hotels and three schools.

The list of buildings recommended for closure also ironically includes the head office of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority itself, as well as the Pateros municipal hall.

At the same hearing, Interior Secretary Joey Lina asked the Senate to amend the Revised Penal Code to raise the penalty for negligent owners of buildings involved in deadly fires from reckless imprudence to murder.

"This will send a strong message to (building) owners not complying with the building and fire codes," Lina told members of the Senate committees on local government and public order.

The list of 54 buildings "with deficiencies and recommended for closure" was provided by Supt. Danilo Cabrera, an assistant BFP chief.

Even one of the country's plushest hotels, the Inter-Continental in Makati City, was included in the list of firetraps. But the hotel's director for public relations, Jennifer Peña, told the INQUIRER there must have been a mistake. She said that aside

54 BUILDINGS/ A18

MARAMING TRAYDOR?

‘There are Judases in military’

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THERE are Judases in the military.

Emerging from years of silence, Fr. Bernardo Blanco, a Spanish priest who survived 48 days of captivity at the hands of Moro kidnappers in Basilan, yesterday came out in support of the allegations against the military of Fr. Cirilo Nacorda.

Blanco, a Claretian missionary kidnapped by a lost command of the Moro National Liberation Front in 1993 but managed to escape, said some members of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police had been selling “spare” ammunition to rebels as far back as a decade ago.

In an exclusive interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, Blanco urged Congress to also look into the involvement of local government officials in the abductions in Mindanao.

“I don’t want to implicate the military as a whole because they are good people who sacrifice a lot for their country,” said Blanco, adding that he was willing to testify in the congressional investigation into Nacorda’s allegations.

“But as there is one Judas among the apostles, there are Judases in the military,” he said.

The 74-year-old Blanco alleged that some local officials in Mindanao had been condoning the kidnappings so they could partake of the ransom money, while volunteering to “negotiate” with the bandits in behalf of the government.

He named former Basilan Gov. Gerry Salapuddin as among those local officials who partake of ransom money.

The priest alleged that his kidnappers made him write letters seeking P9 million in ransom. But Salapuddin, who was making representations with the Spanish Embassy, claimed the rebels wanted P20 million for Blanco, he said.

The following year, when Nacorda was kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf, Salapuddin asked for P600,000 even as the kidnappers only sought P300,000 in ransom, he said.

He said AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva should not be too quick to clear his men of the bribery charges alleged by Nacorda as the practice had been happening long before Villanueva took over the reins of the AFP.

Blanco recalled that while he was in the hands of his MNLF “lost command” captors from March 18 to May 26 in 1993, his abductors had told him that their grenade launcher—the only one they had at the time—had come from a relative in the police force.

The kidnappers’ rifles and ammunition had been bought from some members of the military, Blanco was told.

“If it happened before, then it’s really possible that the allegations of Fr. Nacorda are happening out there, without Gen. Villanueva knowing it,” Blanco said.

BLANCO: Breaking his silence

He said that for Villanueva to maintain the honor of the military, he should first acknowledge that some of his people were doing something wrong.

“To help the enemy kill your companions is a terrible crime,” he said. “And in effect that’s what they’re doing.”

Nacorda has alleged that some AFP officers in Basilan were conniving with the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, which remains on the loose despite the massive deployment of troops to go after them.

Fr. Halley buried today in Cag. de Oro

COTABATO CITY—Four brothers of murdered Irish priest Fr. Rufus Halley arrived in Manila last night to attend his burial at the Columban cemetery in Cagayan de Oro City today.

A fifth brother, the youngest of the Halleys, was also expected to arrive last night.

Thousands of his parishioners from Malabang, Lanao del Sur, where he served since 1979, are also expected to attend the burial.

Josefa Balboa, 65, one of Fr. Halley’s closest friends in Lanao del Sur, paid tribute to the priest for building a bridge of understanding between the Maranaws and Christians.

Fr. Bernard Maes, CICM, who was with Halley three hours before he was killed in a failed kidnap try, said the parishioners of Malabang and Balabagan towns have vowed to continue Fr. Halley’s legacy.

“Now that the foundation of peace and love among peoples of different faiths has been laid by Fr. Halley, the people will nurture it,” said Bai Connie Balindong, a Maranaw.

“We have lost a man of peace, a man of love, a man of understanding but his vision will continue, his legacy will never die,” said Balindong, who is the principal of Our Lady of Peace high school run by Fr. Halley. *Edwin O. Fernandez, with a report from Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Please stop hearings, general asks solons

EMBATTLED Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez yesterday called for the immediate conclusion of the Senate and House investigations into the alleged connivance of certain military officials, particularly him, with the bandit group Abu Sayyaf.

Dominguez, who was previously relieved as commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division, said the controversy should not be allowed to linger further.

“That would be unfair to me. That would be unfair to the Armed Forces of the Philippines,” Dominguez said in a press conference in Camp Aguinaldo.

Dominguez was the most senior of four officers accused by Fr. Cirilo Nacorda of having accepted money from the Abu Sayyaf in exchange for allowing the bandits to slip out of a military cordon in Lamitan, Basilan, on June 2.

Dominguez appealed to senators and congressmen to hasten the pace of their respective investigations as concerned military officers are ready to confront their accusers anytime.

“I know the truth will come out and I will be set free,” Dominguez said. *Carlito Pablo*

2 slain Sinos to get $5,000 each

THE PHILIPPINE government will give $5,000 each to the families of two Chinese engineers who were abducted and killed by Moro kidnappers in Mindanao.

“We would be giving some compensation as a gesture of the condolence of the Philippine government . . . Maybe $5,000 for each of the two,” the President said in her weekly press conference.

The President made the gesture during a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungui in Malacañang on Thursday night.

Relatives of Zhang Zhongquiang and Xue Xing accompanied Wang, who earlier openly wept at the memorial service of his slain compatriots.

The President said she assured Wang that the military was exerting every effort for the safe rescue of Zhang Zhongyi who remains in captivity.

She said Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. would also issue to the Chinese Embassy an “official account of what happened” to the Chinese engineers who were working in a major irrigation project in the South.

Juliet Labog-Javellana

Military, cops bust syndicate

POLICE and military agents have busted a syndicate behind the illegal drawing of checks from the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association Inc.

A joint military-police team mounted an operation following complaints from AFPSLAI members that certain unauthorized persons have been getting loans on their behalf.

Last Tuesday, the team arrested an ex-Army sergeant posing as Police Insp. Drake Wallie Bantag as he was withdrawing a check for a P200,000 loan.

Carlito Pablo

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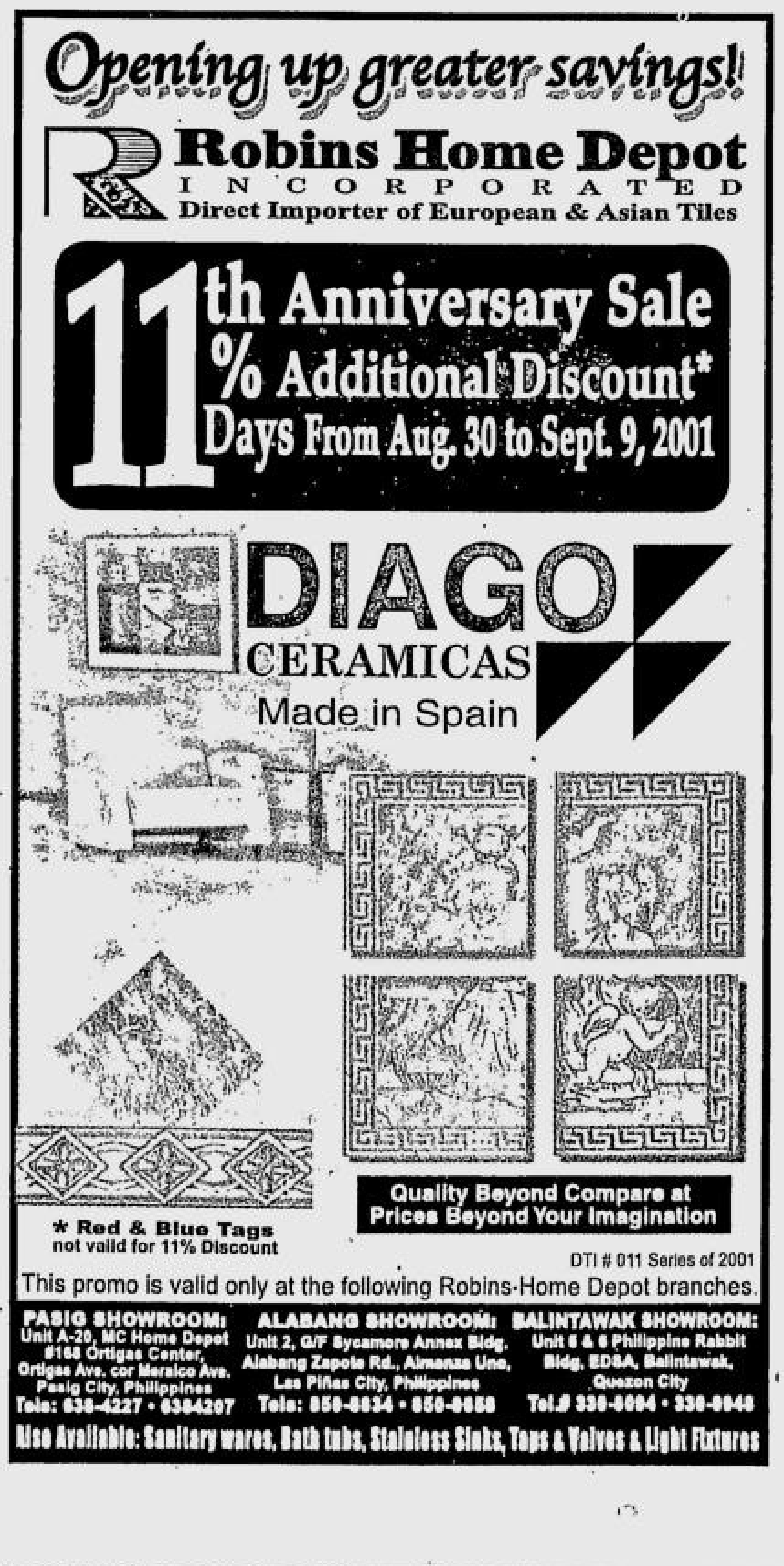
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GMA endorses 3-day holiday weekends

PRIVATE sector employees may also benefit from the planned 3-day holiday weekends that President Macapagal-Arroyo has "approved in principle."

The President said she was amenable to the proposal by Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon to move public and non-working holidays falling on a weekday to Friday to help boost domestic tourism.

The move is expected to apply to government employees but Ms Macapagal said Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz was also looking into how the proposed 3-day weekend could be extended to private sector employees.

"That's the reason why the executive order hasn't come out yet because Nonong Cruz is still looking at the fine details, but as a matter of principle we want to do it," the President said in her weekly press conference.

Ms Macapagal said the 3-day weekend would be implemented initially with public holidays.

"Like if a holiday falls on a Thursday or Tuesday we will just make it Friday and Monday so that we have a 3-day weekend," the President said.

Juliet Labog-Javellana

Criminal raps filed vs Lacson

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE PHILIPPINE National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) yesterday filed with the Ombudsman's Office criminal charges against Sen. Panfilo Lacson and 10 others, mostly members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), in connection with the alleged wiretapping activities conducted by Lacson during the previous administration.

Police Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, PNP-CIDG chief, charged Lacson and his men with malversation, graft, false testimony and perjury, and violation of the 1965 Anti-Wiretapping Act.

The other respondents were Police Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Magtanggol Gatdula, Lt. Colonels Dioscoro Reyes and Dennis Agaram, Police Supt. John Lopez, Police Chief Insp. Steve Ludan, PO2s Giovanni Belen, Freddie Ferrer and Wendel Arinas, and Technical Sergeant Arturo Tabang.

Assisted by his aide, Gualberto filed the criminal complaints at 11:15 a.m. before Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr.

Gualberto submitted eight two-inches thick folders containing the letter-complaint and the accompanying testimonial and documentary evidence.

He told reporters that at least two documents showed the signature of Lacson to prove that he authorized the purchase of electronic bugging equipment in 1999 worth a total of US$653,116.59. "The funds came from the P500-million intelligence fund of the PAOCTF," he said.

Gualberto has asked the Ombudsman to seek authorization from the Sandiganbayan so that the PNP can be allowed to download the contents of bugging devices seized last week in Pasig.

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Ping says he'll answer all raps in time; Blas seeks hearings halt

By Armand Nocum

SEN. Panfilo Lacson said yesterday he does not intend to let the charges being aired against him in the Senate go unanswered—he was just biding his time before formally setting the record straight.

At the same time, opposition Sen. Blas Ople said he is filing a resolution on Monday to terminate the hearings on Lacson's alleged money-laundering activities.

"There will be time for us to answer all of them (charges)," Lacson said, adding it was premature to do so now since the testimonies of Isafp chief Victor Corpus, civilian agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong and ex-civilian agent Angelo "Ador" Mawanay were not yet completed.

In a radio interview, Lacson said he was still collating all the allegations made against him in order to refute them in the same forum.

Ople said it was time the committees wrapped up their work, lest "insidious forces" succeed in destroying the nation's leading institutions.

"We need to put a cap on these hearings, say, by the end of September," he said, adding the hearings may have brought about "open season for destabilizing the government."

He said the hearings have so far placed in question the integrity of the Senate, the military, the police and the judiciary.

2 whistleblowers: Rosebud, Mark

THEY were both whistleblowers against entrenched establishments, never knew they were blood relatives because they never met and now they never will because one of them is dead.

Undercover agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong, who has accused Sen. Panfilo Lacson of various criminal activities, happens to be the aunt of Mark Welson Chua, who was brutally killed last March after he exposed the irregularities of the Reserve Officers' Training Course at the University of Sto. Tomas where he was enrolled.

It was the picture of 19-year-old Chua which Ong held up before a Senate hearing last week and which she said was that of a "murdered nephew."

"This happened to my nephew . . . I don't want this to happen to my two boys," Ong told the senators investigating allegations that Lacson was involved in criminal activities, including drug trafficking, holding up as well the pictures of her two young sons.

All this was revealed yesterday by Chua's father, Welson, who attended a Senate probe into whether the ROTC should be abolished.

The elder Chua said he and Ong, who is also known as Mary Chua, accidentally learned they were cousins shortly after Mark's death last March.

He said interviewers from a television program had asked if he knew of Chinese nationals who were missing. The TV staff had informed him they were also interviewing Ong.

Chua said he asked the television people to give his cell phone number to Ong.

When the two ethnic Chinese finally met, they learned that they were related.

"All Chuas are cousins," Chua told reporters.

Chua said he was the one who reproduced his son's picture for Ong's use during her testimony.

"Her point (in showing Mark's picture) is that because she's coming out, she's afraid that what happened to my son would happen to her children," Chua said.

Christine Avendaño

3 foreigners arrested for bomb plot vs Viets

THREE foreigners have been arrested for allegedly plotting to bomb the Vietnamese Embassy in Manila, radio reports and officials said yesterday.

Police and bureau of immigration sources told AFP that three unnamed foreigners were arrested on Thursday over an alleged bombing plot against the Vietnamese mission, but would give no further details.

Official sources said the police planned to present the three at a formal press conference in the coming days.

Radio station dzMM identified the three as Makoto Ito of Japan, Vietnamese-American Vo Van Doc and Swiss-Vietnamese Huynh Thuan Ngoc.

The Vietnamese Embassy in Manila said it had no knowledge of the arrests.

The radio report said police and immigration agents seized bomb-making materials including detonating cords, blasting caps, bags of ammonium nitrate, electrical relays and cellular phones from a townhouse occupied by the three in a Manila suburb. *AFP*

2 killed in NPA raid in Quezon

PAGBILAO, Quezon—Some 30 communist rebels raided a police checkpoint along the busy Maharlika Highway yesterday afternoon leaving a policeman and a woman guerrilla dead.

Killed was SPO1 Nestor Urilles of Task Force Calabarzon, Quezon sector in Barangay Talipan, this town. Another policeman, PO1 Alejandro Rosario, was hit on the left arm. The dead rebel was still unidentified as of press time.

Witnesses told the INQUIRER that the rebel force arrived on board four vehicles.

"The NPA with at least three amazonas were aboard an Elf dump truck, a gray colored Toyota sedan, and two passenger jeeps. Three of the guerrillas, including a woman even directed traffic along the highway before they fired successive shots at the police checkpoint," Fidel Reyes, one of the witnesses told the INQUIRER. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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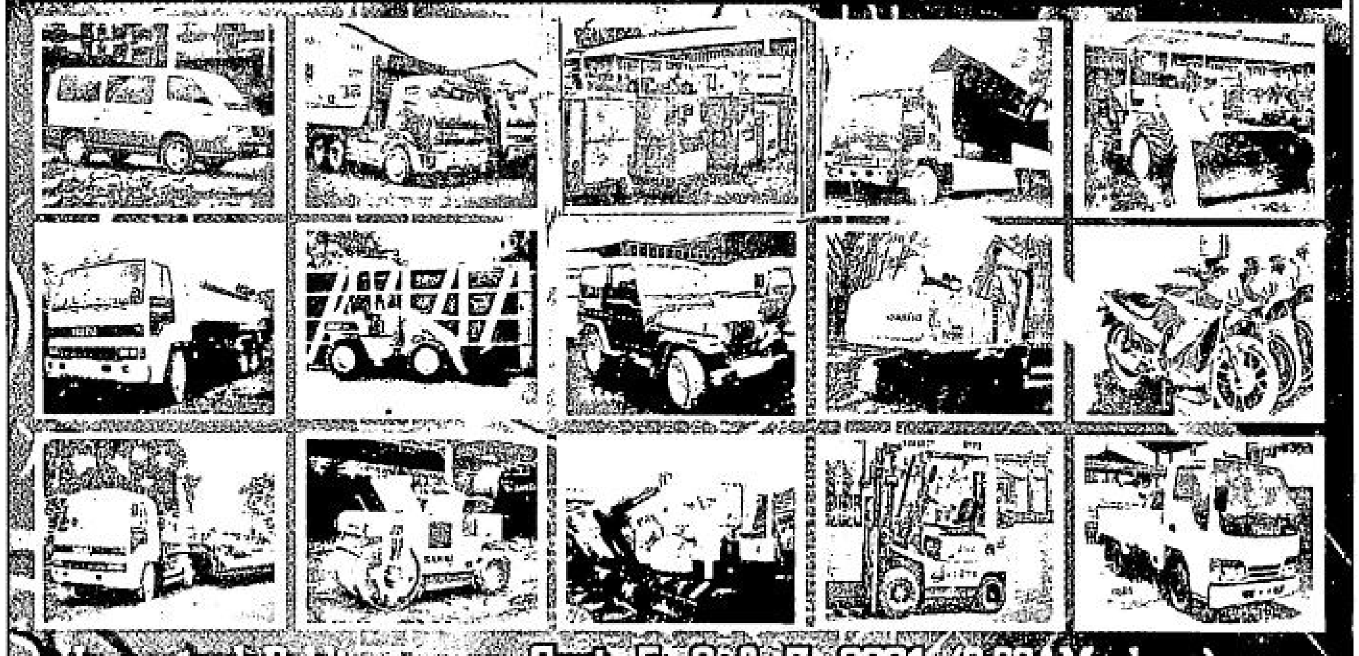

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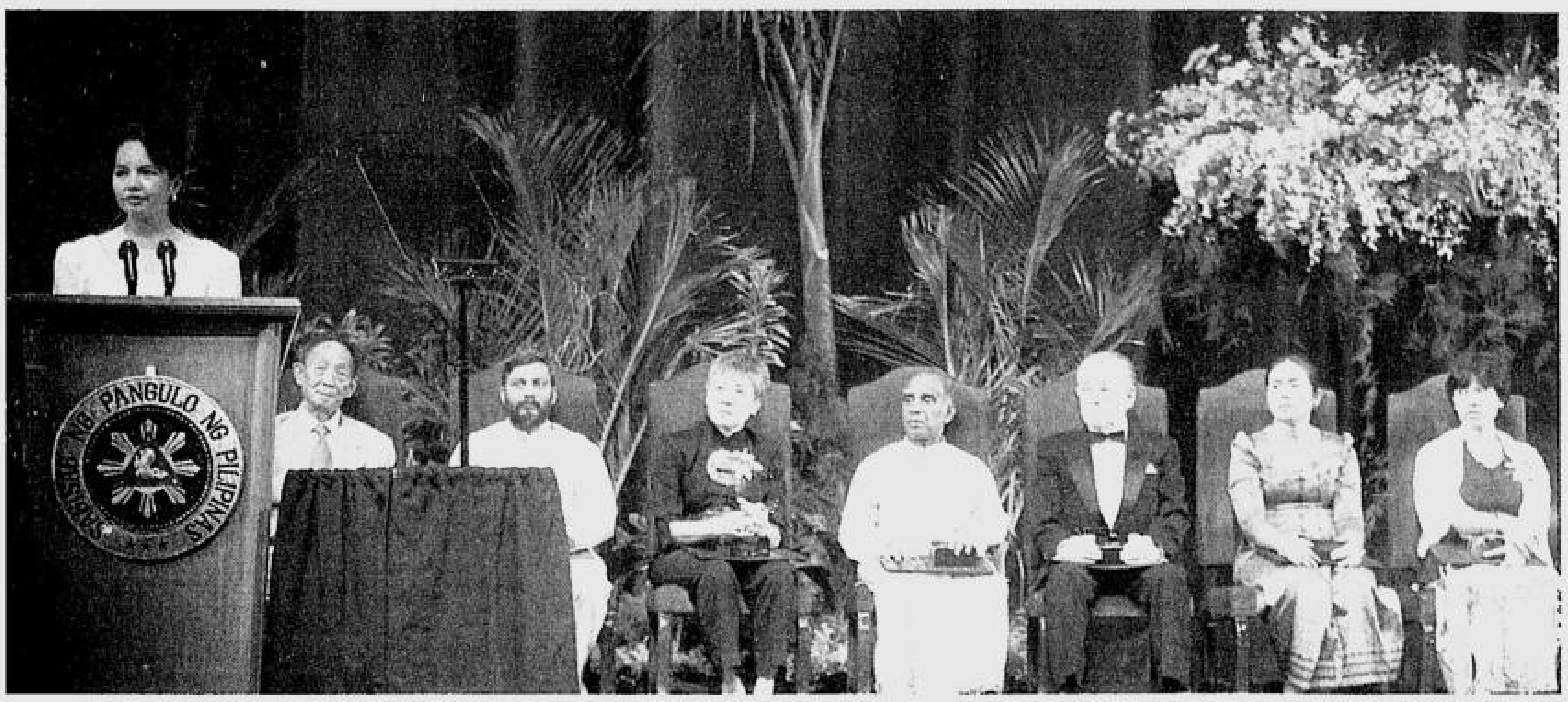

EDWIN BACASMAS

MAGSAYSAY awardees listen to President Macapagal's keynote address at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Purge PNP, Gloria urged

(From page A1)

by then Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan to review the continued service of senior superintendents upward.

This led to the resignation of at least 60 senior officers in Camp Crame.

The unnamed officers urged the President to do the same and "to choose our next PNP chief (from) among our senior superintendents."

The former rebel group Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa dismissed this bold suggestion as "too sweeping."

"A purge should cover only those who dirtied themselves in the illegal drug business," said RAM spokesperson Proceso Maligalig, a former Navy captain.

"As to those who kept quiet despite having knowledge that their colleagues are into (drug trafficking), it's time they volunteered information and help in the cleaning process," Maligalig said.

When sought for comment, PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Crescencio Maralit said: "We at the PNP serve at the pleasure of the President."

"If the President feels that some officers are not wanted anymore, it's her prerogative to replace them with officers who can do the job for the PNP," Maralit said.

On Wednesday at the Senate hearing on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged involvement in drug trafficking, money laundering, and other crimes, ex-undercover narcotics agent Mary Ong said the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame was the hub of the illegal trade.

PNP Director General Mendoza took offense at Ong's testimony, saying it indicted the 115,000-strong police force.

But over GMA-7's "Debate" program Thursday night, Ong stressed that she had implicated only a number of officers.

She said that while some shipments of *shabu* (methamphethamine hydrochloride) were indeed taken by the Lacson group into Camp Crame itself, she did not mean to imply that the PNP national headquarters was itself the center of drug trafficking in the country.

In her statement, the President said: "The PNP is the focus today of intense interest and scrutiny. The testimonies at the Senate hearings had been distorted to make it appear that the entire PNP has been corrupted by drug money.

"This is not so. The PNP as an institution is strong and dedicated to the rule of law."

She said certain police officers and men had "undeniably" broken the law but that "most of them are out of service."

"There may still be scalawags in the service who may have to be expunged. The information and evidence in the Senate investigation will be used to surgically cleanse the PNP, a valuable institution for nation-building, to make it even stronger," she said.

Evaluation

Interior Secretary Joey Lina yesterday said he had ordered an investigation of the police officers whom Ong had accused of involvement in drug trafficking.

Lina told reporters that he had directed Mendoza and the National Police Commission's investigation division to "evaluate" Ong's statements and ``come up with results as soon as possible."

He said morale at the PNP remained high, but acknowledged that some policemen were affected by the "serious allegations."

He also said his department would carefully study the proposal made by military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus for the revamp of the various narcotics agencies in order to solve the drug trafficking problem in the country.

In an interview with radio dyLA in Cebu City, Lina dismissed the apprehension voiced by Mendoza that Ong had destroyed the entire PNP.

He noted Ong's clarification that Camp Crame became the center of the illegal drug trade from 1998 to 2000. He said this meant that the present PNP under Mendoza was not included.

RAM's Maligalig said the clarification aired by Ong made clear that she was only referring to "a number of officers, and not the whole organization."

He warned that Mendoza might be falling into a trap by taking Ong to task for her statements.

In fact, Maligalig said, the call for the wholesale resignation of police generals was also a trap because this would punish officers who had remained true to their duty.

"Let only the guilty be punished," he said.

Clarification

Ong again clarified at a news conference of dzRJ in Makati City yesterday that in her statement on Camp Crame being the center of drug trafficking operations, she was referring to the year 1998 when Lacson was PNP chief.

She said she wanted to clarify this with Mendoza yesterday, but that she was not able to get to him through the phone.

On Thursday at the Manila Overseas Press Club's PNP night, 2001, Mendoza reiterated his grievance.

"We are saddened by what they are saying," Mendoza said at the gathering at the Manila Hotel.

"While we welcome an investigation of erring policemen, we are very concerned about the image of the PNP as an institution. The PNP should be spared these allegations," he said.

But Ong said: "I could not say everything to the Senate because what they were asking were about the incidents in 1998. I could not say 'the police in 1998' (whenever I answered). I could not repeat that all the time."

Ong also denied Lacson's allegation that former PNP chief Roberto Lastimoso and Central Luzon police director Reynaldo Berroya gave her a condominium in San Juan in exchange for doing a hatchet job on him.

She said she had no condominium unit and had never lived in one.

"That's not true. I am living in quarters that get flooded at times. Condominiums don't get flooded," she said.

Ong also said that early this year, she saw Frank Chavez, lawyer of alleged drug lord Kim Wong, together with another lawyer and some teenaged girls at the lobby of the Marco Polo Hotel in Hong Kong.

She said this was about the same time that the joint intelligence team looking into Lacson's alleged dollar accounts was in Hong Kong en route to the United States.

"I am now challenging Chavez: (What were you doing there at that time)?" Ong said. "How coincidental that you were there."

She also challenged Chavez to present his passport to show its departure and arrival stamps.

Sought for comment, Chavez said he went to Hong Kong on June 3-6 with his family on a package tour.

"I was with my wife and three kids. We were staying at the Marco Polo Prince Hotel," he said.

He said he also saw Ong and pointed her out to his wife and children.

Chavez also said Ong was trying to sow intrigue. He denied that he was following her in Hong Kong.

"Why would I do that? I am a lawyer, not a spy like her," he said.

In aid of legislation

Leonard de Vera, spokesperson of the Equal Justice for All Movement and one of the lawyers assisting Ong, said the cases against Lacson could be brought to the Senate ethics committee, which would determine whether Lacson still deserved to stay in the chamber.

"We should not expect the three committees now conducting the inquiry to find out if he is guilty or not because the investigation is only in aid of legislation," De Vera said.

He added: "We can go to the courts but this will take a long, long time, until such time that drug money has reached the courts. I can assure you that the courts will not be able to come up with any decision before the 2004 elections.

"If the justice system fails the people, there will be a People Power III to oust the corrupt justices and judges in the land." *With reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta, Christine Avendano, TJ Burgonio and Donna S. Cueto in Manila; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2001

11:00 A.M. – 12:00 NN/Function Rm. A
The Acting & Reading Techniques of Storytelling (for Teachers, Parents & Storytelling Coaches)
Alitaptap Storyteller's Club

10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
Forum on "Document Delivery"
UP Library Science Alumni Assn., Inc.

1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M./Function Rms. A & B
Seminar
"Society of Educators for a Better Philippines"
Bato Balani Foundation Inc. & Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
Book Launching
"With New Eyes - The World as Seen by Preachers of the World" by Johnny Go, SJ, Danny Huang, SJ, Jojo Magadia, SJ, Jett Villarin, SJ
Jesuit Communications Foundation

5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
Lampara Publishing House Inc.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2001

10:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
Excerpt from the Drama Musical "Plaridel" & Karunungan: In Black Theater
VSE Productions

3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"On Screen by Fr. Peter Malone, MSC, Rosary of Jesus' Public Life by Sr. Monina Baybay, FSP, Teenage Escape by Sim Reyes, Beyond Manila by Marie Laygo and Daily Gospel Now by Fr. Robert E. Sullivan, OMI"
Paulines Publishing

5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M./ Function Rm. A
Book Launching
"Lugar: Essays on Philippine Heritage & Architecture by Arch. Augusto F. Villalon"
The Bookmark, Inc.

5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
7th Mega Book Launching
"Fellow Traveller: Essays on Filipino Communism by Patricio N. Abinales, Ang Aking Prince Charming at Iba Pang Noveleta ng Pag-ibig by Joi Barrios, Growing Into Asia and Other Essays by Susan P. Evangelista, Curtain's Call: Selected Reviews, 1957-2000 by Leonor Orosa Goquingco, May Isang Panahon: Mga Kuwento, Sanaysay, Tula by Genoveva Edroza Matute, May Katwiran ang Katwiran at Iba Pang Dula by Rolando S. Tinio, Introduction to Electric Fields by Elfren Abaya, The Philippine Economy: Alternatives for the 21st Century by Dante B. Canlas and Shigeaki Fujisaki (Editors), Introductory Mathematical Economics by Rolando Danao, The Communist Party of Kathleen Weekly"
University of the Philippines Press

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2001

10:00 A.M.–12:00 NN/Function Rms. A & B
Re-Launch of Pre-school Textbooks with Seminar on: "Technology in Early Childhood Education"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

1:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M./Function Rms. A & B
Seminar on "E-Learning & 7 Intelligence"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"Dialogues of Love by Msgr. Stud Santos, 40 More Personal Prayers by Msgr. Stud Santos, A Way to the Desert by Fr. Ramon Bautista, SJ, 365 Days with the Lord 2002, Homelife - The Philippines' Family Magazine, The Youngster - The Illustrated Magazine for the Youth"
St Pauls

6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Book Launching
"Batang Historyador Series"
Adarna House

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2001

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 NN/Function Rm. A
BDAP/BEAP Export Marketing Seminar
Book Devt. Assn. of the Phils. (BDAP)
Book Exporters Assn. of the Phils. (BEAP)

10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Forum
"Meeting the Challenges of E-Resources in Libraries"
Medical & Health Librarians Association of the Philippines (MAHLAP)

1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
BDAP General Membership Meeting
Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP)

2:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Forum
"Update on Philippine Librarians Assn. Inc. Agenda for the Development of Librarians"
Philippine Librarians Assn., Inc. (PLAI)

3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
Storytellers, Different Styles (for Teachers, Parents & Storytelling Coaches)
Alitaptap Storyteller's Club Members

5.00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Book Launching
"Inside Manila With Kids by Didith Tan Rodrigo, drawings by Robert Alejandro"
Tahanan Books & The Bookmark, Inc.

6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launch
"Mass for Peace: A Song Book for Choir and Congregation by Ryan Cayabyab"
Book Wagon (Pahina, Inc.)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2001

10.00 A.M.–12:00 NN/Function Rms. A & B
Launching of New High School Textbooks with a Seminar on "Future Trends in High School Education"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

1:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M./Function Rms. A & B
Forum
"The State of English Instruction in Phil. Education"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

4:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
New Ways to Learn: Piano Methods for the Millennium Generation
Book Wagon (Pahina, Inc.)

6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"Christianity Between Sundays by William B. Girao, Chapter in Philippine Church History by Anne Kwantes, Tomorrow Can Be Beautiful by Harold J. Sala, God's Heart for the Nations by Dean Wiebracht, Get Real! Making Your Mark as a Man by David Dean, Tears for a Season by Luis P. Gatmaitan, May Mga Lihim Kami ni Ingkong by Luis P. Gatmaitan, The Magic of Apo Mayor by Grace D. Chong, Huff and Grudge by Lesley Hicks, The Boy and his Lunch by Edwin Estioko"
OMF Literature, Inc.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

10:00 A.M.–12:00 NN/Function Rms. A & B
Seminar
"Walking the Tightrope: Balancing An Excellent Work and Family Life"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Seminar
"IT in Education"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

1:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
Forum
"Enhancing Communication Skills"
Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines (ASLP)

3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
Kids as Storytellers (for Teachers, Parents, Storytelling Coaches)
Alitaptap Storytelling Contest Winners

5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Excerpt from the Drama Musical "Plaridel" & Karunungan: In Black Theater
VSE Productions

5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Launching
"Are You The Forest King?" Cartoon: A Video Animation, Artwork by Penny Reyes, Animation by UP Film Center (Open to the Public)
The Bookmark, Inc. & Pangea Books, Inc.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2001

10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Diwa Science Showdown
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Panel Discussion
"How to Deal with Library Donation"
Philippine Association of Academic and Research Libraries (PAARL)

1:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Seminar on "The 3M in Library Information Science Education: Management, Money & Marketing"
Philippine Association of Teachers of Library Science (PATLS)

3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M./Function Room A
Website Launch
"nerdycarabao.com"
F & J de Jesus, Inc. & Asianware

5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M./ Function Rms. A & B
Powermark Book Club Launching
OMF Literature, Inc.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2001

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 NN/Function Rm. A
Product Launching
"Angelos and Haggadah"
Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Book Launching
"Tinig ng Darating at Iba pang Tula by Teo Baylen, Damdamin: Mga Piling Tula ni Iñigo Ed. Regalado, Sa Tabi ng Dagat at Iba pang Tula by Idelfonso Santos, Sampagitang Walang Bango by Iñigo Ed. Regalado, Grass Roots & Cadre in the Protest Movement by Vincent Boudreau, Corruption, the Boom and Bust of East Asia ed. by J. Edgardo Campos, Leaving the Priesthood: A Close Reading of Priestly Departures by Emmanuel Fernandez, Image to Meaning: Essays in Philippine Art by Alice Guillermo, People of Power, A Philippine Worldview of Spirit Encounters by John P. McAndrew, History and Society in the Novels of Ramon Muzones by Ma. Cecilia-Locsin-Nava, Magosaha: An Ethnography of the Tawi-Tawi Sama Dilaut by H. Arlo Nimmo, The Philippine Revolution of 1896: Ordinary Lives in Extraordinary Times edited by F. Rodao and Felice Noelle Rodriguez, and National/Transnational; Subject Formation and Media in and on the Philippines by Rolando B. Tolentino"
Ateneo de Manila University Press

4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"Si Pilandok sa Pulo ng Pawikan by, Victoria Añonuevo illustrated by Kora Albano, Ang Pambihirang Buhok ni Lola by Rene Villanueva illustraded by Ibarra Crisostomo, Ibong Adarna 2 by Roberto Alonzo illustrated by Jordan Santos, Bakit Matagal ang Sundo Ko? by Kristine Canon illustrated by Mariano Ching, Magnificent Benito and Two Front Teeth by Augie Rivera and Mike Rivera illustrated by Jason Moss, Sundalong Patpat 2 by Virgilio S. Almario illustrated by Ferdinand Doctolero, Melchora Aquino by Rene Villanueva illustrated by Ferdinand Doctolero, Blue Day by Pipa Escalante illustrated by Abi Goy"
Adarna House

5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Book Launching & Video Presentation
"E-Bookman: Book, Music and Personal Information in the Palm of Your Hand"
Busybook Distributors

6:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
National Book Awards
Manila Critics Circle

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2001

4:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"Marxism and Religion: A Fusion of Horizon by Virgilio A. Ojoy, OP, Mary, Seat of Wisdom: A Contemporary Reflection by Roland D. Mactal, OP, Everyday Sense of Existense in a Day by Fr. Jan Sareno, Justice, Patients' Rights, Psychoethics ed. by Fausto B. Gomez, OP & Dr. Anniela Yu-Soliven, Balagtas and His Nationalistic Literature by Dr. Johanna G. Hashim, Dalawampung Tula ng Pag-ibig ni Diosdado Macapagal ed by Erli Mendoza and Michael Coroza, The Treasures of Lamon Bay by Dr. Frank Tejada, Nakatanim na Granada by Rebecca Añonuevo, Pangarap at Pangitain by Abdon M. Balde, Jr., Fray Domingo de Salazar, First Bishop of the Philippines by Lucio Gutierrez, OP, Apples and Ampalaya by Augusto V. de Viana, Forensic Medicine by Dr. Teresita R. Sanchez"
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Rosebud's saga: Sex, lies, drugs and videotape

(From page A1)

At times, Ong's tone was even flirtatious. When Campos interrupted her in the middle of a sentence, she told him sweetly that she hadn't butted in while he was speaking.

"*Uuuuy*!" teased the audience.

The exchange finally led one guest to ask, in so many words: Isn't this supposed to be "Debate"?

'Stupid guy'

In a news conference yesterday, Ong dismissed Campos' claim that they were never lovers. "He's such a stupid guy," she said.

"I can show you pictures of us sleeping together," Ong repeated, stirring the crowd that packed the conference room. She did not bring any photos out upon the advice of her lawyers.

Bayan Muna Rep. Liza Maza, chair of the women's group Gabriela, said Ong does not need to show any pictures to prove that she, and Campos had an intimate relationship.

"The women believe in her, she doesn't have to go down to the level of Campos," Maza said.

Back to the show

"Debate" hosts Oscar Orbos and Winnie Monsod agreed that question of whether Ong and Campos actually lived together had bearing on the credibility of Ong as a witness against Lacson.

Pressed by the hosts as to whether there was any emotional involvement between the two at any time, Campos declared: "None."

He also said that Ong's accusations were motivated by "her personal feelings against me."

Campos' former superior, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, has claimed that Ong, a "woman scorned," is out to exact revenge against Campos and his associates.

Ong said she had complained to Acop about her lover's heavy-handedness but the general took no action.

Campos said he and Ong worked together only two times, adding that the reason she is accusing him of being part of Lacson's alleged illegal drug trafficking ring is that "she's in financial trouble."

Payroll

A pro-Campos panelist taunted Ong for engaging in an "adulterous" relationship with Campos, saying that both of them were still married at the time of their supposed affair.

Calmly, Ong said her marriage was annulled in the early 1990s and that she was a free woman.

Pro-Ong panelist Dante Jimenez, chair of Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, compared Ong with Jessica Alfaro, star witness in the celebrated Vizconde massacre case.

"Like Jessica Alfaro, she is an insider," Jimenez said. "They can deny her but her testimony can stand in court."

But Campos charged that Ong was on the payroll of former police Director General Roberto Lastimoso and Lacson's professional archenemy, Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya.

Ong laughed off this claim, describing Berroya as "*makunat* (miserly)."

She turned the tables, hinting that Campos was skimming profit off drug deals at the expense of his bosses.

She said Campos would usually prepare several versions of one operational plan, showing a different version to each of his superiors while keeping the real plan to himself.

'Shameless'

Feminists have found a rallying figure in Ong, who called on Gabriela yesterday to help her fight those who trample on women's rights, starting with her purported former lover.

"I really need your help, there are many of them," Ong said, addressing members of Gabriela who attended her news conference in Makati.

Ong said Campos showed no respect for women, even for the woman who was his partner for five years.

"*Siniraan niya ako bilang isang babae* (He attacked me as a woman)," she said.

"*Hindi siya nahihiya dahil siya ay walanghiya* (He isn't ashamed because he's shameless)."

Maza immediately threw her support behind Ong, whom she described as a "woman of courage and strength."

"We encourage her to stand by her revelations and to have courage just like the women witnesses in Estrada's impeachment trial," Maza said. "We will stand by her."

'Despicable'

In a separate statement, Gabriela deputy secretary general Emmi de Jesus said that attempts by the Lacson camp to downplay Ong's exposé against police officers as a "lover's revenge" were the "height of despicable machismo."

"It takes a lot of courage for a mother to come out and confront a powerful organized crime syndicate with damaging exposés," De Jesus said.

"Campos, Acop and Lacson are belittling Mary Ong and her testimony simply because they cannot provide tangible evidence to invalidate her allegations," she added.

Campos, reacting to Ong's testimony before the joint Senate inquiry on Wednesday, said in another interview that night that "there was no love in the relationship."

He also said he merely "used" Ong as an agent to crack into an international narcotics ring run by the Hong Kong triads.

Ong is a witness of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isafp) in the continuing Senate inquiry into allegations that Lacson was involved in drug trafficking, kidnapping and money-laundering activities.

Also known as Mata Hari, Ong was a Chinese interpreter for the Lacson-led Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force. Ong said that she worked with Campos in an anti-narcotics operation code-named Athena.

Maza said Campos exemplified the typical "macho" Filipino who abuses women and is even proud of the fact.

In earlier interviews, Ong said she met Campos in 1993 through a common friend who was also her "handler" as a civilian agent. Ong said she fell in love while they were working under cover in Hong Kong. Their relationship, she said, started to sour after five years.

Maza said women like Ong who are either lured or forced into criminal activities are vulnerable to abuse in such situations due to the "macho" culture in crime syndicates.

"That's how it has always been," she said. "We recognize Rosebud's courage in coming out and we will support her in fighting for the truth."

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Gloria . . .

(From page A1)

She vowed that the fight against organized crime would be pursued regardless of who were involved.

The opposition Partido ng Masang Pilipino, however, said that the "vilification campaign" against Lacson not only was intended to neutralize opposition figures but also to influence the courts in the cases against former President Joseph Estrada.

Jesus Crispin Remulla, PMP spokesperson, cited the surprise entry of businessman Danny Devnani as witness in the Senate investigation. He said the businessman suddenly dragged the names of the former president and his son, former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, into the alleged criminal activities of Lacson.

"The sudden inclusion of Mr. Devnani, a self-confessed gambler in the gallery of Mr. (Victor) Corpus' doubtful set of witnesses, is the latest in the government's attempt to influence the courts into deciding against President Estrada," Remulla said.

The Estradas are facing charges of graft and corruption, perjury and plunder before the Sandiganbayan.

Remulla, in a press statement, said the government's move to drag the former President's name into the Senate investigation is significant considering the Supreme Court is now deliberating on the petition of Mr. Estrada's defense panel questioning the legality of the Plunder Law.

The high court's decision would determine if Mr. Estrada would remain in detention or be allowed to post bail.

But Ms Macapagal denied having any personal interest in the Lacson investigation.

"My interest in his case is not a personal battle against him but has something to do with the goal of crushing organized crime to protect the citizens," said the President, who was dressed in a blazing-red suit.

She said there should be no letup until the country had been rid of kidnappings, drug trafficking, human smuggling, gunrunning, organized prostitution, illegal gambling, professional robbery, commercial smuggling, piracy, money laundering and terrorism.

"No leader of these crimes will be pardoned be they ruthless criminals or officials of the government," she said.

Ms Macapagal said it would not do Lacson any good to blame her for his woes.

"The senator should erase his doubts that I have a hand in his problems. He should not blame the President of the Philippines for his problems. This will not help him in his cases at all," she said in Filipino.

"What he should do is answer all the accusations of witnesses against him. I will pray that he will be successful in explaining his case," she added.

Sympathy

"The truth is," the President said, "I sympathize with Senator Lacson and the problems he is facing."

Nevertheless, "he has a duty to answer and face the charges against him," she said, adding:

"If he has no sin, then he has nothing to fear."

She said it was "not wrong" for the public to hear the testimony of witnesses at the Senate hearings investigating the allegations against Lacson.

But she pointed out that "we should also listen to Lacson's defense."

The President, who had a private dinner with Lacson after he and the other senators were proclaimed, noted that he had accused her of involvement in the supposed campaign against him.

"I supposedly have an interest in prosecuting him and seeing him suffer in jail. According to him, I see him as a threat in the 2004 presidential election. These accusations of Senator Lacson are not true," she said.

She pointed out that the accusations against Lacson came up before she was sworn in as President, and that he and his men were consistent suspects in the killing of 11 members of the Kuratong Baleleng bank robbery syndicate in 1995.

"The accusation that he is the leader of kidnapping-for-ransom operations and a drug lord also came from people he knew," the President said. "We have long been hearing about his and his men's involvement in summary executions."

The President said the new charges involving the laundering of hundreds of millions of dollars in banks in Hong Kong and the United States were the result of an investigation conducted by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

"There are many witnesses who have come out to testify against the then (PNP) chief, deputy chief of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission and director of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force," she said.

She noted that the various criminal charges against Lacson were now being heard in the Ombudsman, the Senate, and the courts. ***With a report from Martin P. Marfil***

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Activities

Sept. 1 Saturday

1:00-5:00pm
SEBP presents an Insight into
Media and Values in the Phil. Education
Speaker: Sen. Loren Legarda Leviste
Bro. Armin Luistro of La Salle

Sept. 3 Monday

10:00am-12:00nn
"Technology in Early Childhood Education"
Speaker: Ms. Nina Lim-Yuson
(President, Museo Pambata)
1:00-4:30pm
e-Learning & Multiple Intelligences
Speaker: Mr. Jerry de Tagle
(President, Integrated Learning Int'l.)

Sept. 5 Wednesday

10:00am-12:00nn
"Future Trends in High School Education"
Speaker: Dr. Lydia Rodriguez-Arcellana
(Professor, English Dept.-UP Diliman)
1:00-3:30pm
"The State of English Instruction in Phil. Education"
Speaker: Dr. Rosalinda Ora'a-Fuentes
(VP for Programs and Academic Dean, SAIDI)

Sept. 6 Thursday

10:00am-12:00nn
"Walking the Tightrope: Balancing An Excellent Work and Family Life"
Speakers: Dr. Cynthia Quismundo
Noel Tan(Business Matters)
1:00-3:00pm
"e-ducation and Connectivity: Tomorrow's Classroom"
Speaker: Jose Marie Legaspi,
(Project Director: Teacher Training Program Columbia University)

Sept. 7 Friday

10:00am-3:00pm
DIWA Science Showdown

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TPG Corporation now an ISO 9002 certified pre-need company

By Dulce M. Montemayor

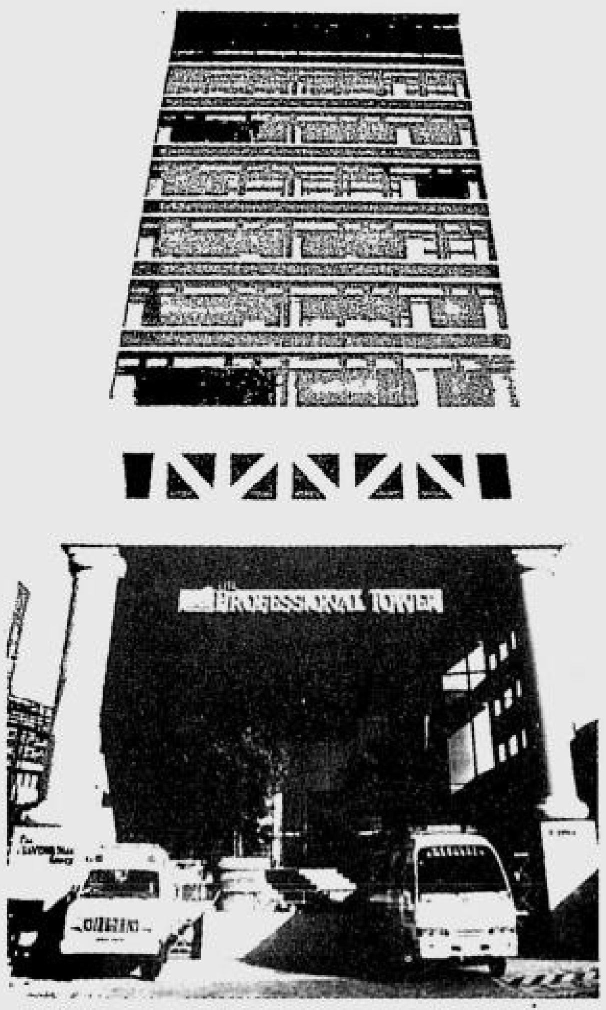
Service

Defined, it is an act of providing people with something they may use. Something that every business must take into consideration.

BUT, an intelligent company knows that keeping pace in the industry means not being contented with JUST delivering their service. As TPG Corporation's (formerly The Professional Group Plans, Inc.) VP for Corporate Advocacy, Mr. Ruben Victorino, puts it, "What is important is to deliver services ABOVE AND BEYOND customer expectation."

Now, this becomes more than just keeping pace with the stiff competition in the industry....but a manner of taking a leap forward.

"You take a look at your product. With your product today, you come up with something innovative and the following day, I could have copied all the features in your product. But whatever compensation or treatment you give your customers, we can't readily match the following day. So, we're that different from other pre-need companies. And we believe that the area of CUSTOMER ADVOCACY is something not everybody, much as they would want to, can readily equal," he added.



The TPG Corporation's Corporate Headquarters along EDSA in Mandaluyong City

Leaping forward

Success does not happen overnight. For a company with 25 years of service, TPG has faced numerous challenges that it has successfully overcome. Diligence and team effort made this possible. Not content with just offering pre-need and at-need product and services, TPG is committed in providing world-class service to its planholders. Hence, the jump to have TPG ISO 9002 certified.

ISO is an acronym for the International Standards Organization. This is an internationally recognized standard, carrying with it a 'model' of what a quality system and quality assurance is. Here, Quality Management System requires a few, but essential things: formal organizational structure; clearly defined responsibilities; procedures for all important activities; record keeping and their systematic review; and the provision of audit of performance with corrective action and monitoring.

Looking at it, it may appear to have been that easy. But everything the ISO embodies does not start and end in paper.

They have decided to put moral responsibility on the very core of TPG, the Operations Division. It was aptly re-named as the Customer Advocacy Group. With this, how can one afford not to be customer-oriented, when the name you carry says so.

TPG's greatest asset, or the success of the ISO program lies on its people. Day in and day out, while the employees are attuned to this objective, there is that need to do something more. Customer advocacy is something that should not only be paid lip service to, but it is something that people should breathe and live by, it should be a way of life.

The implication of being ISO certified

To date, only three pre-need companies have been ISO certified. Nonetheless, the ISO certification is just an adjunct to TPG's objective.

An ISO certificate is like a badge of good housekeeping." It is not enough that we have the products, what is important is we exceed customer's expectations with quality service. "With TPG, you are guaranteed to get your money's worth. What is important is there is candor, sincerity and the intent to give the best that you can in the delivery itself." Victorino added.

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BS EN ISO 9002 : 1994
Registration Schedule
9002
ANGLO JAPANESE AMERICAN REGISTRARS
UKAS QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Good housekeeping, in businessman's term means, putting in place the management procedures to integrate these practices into the daily operations of the business, and lay the ground for taking a more systematic approach to improving the competitiveness of their companies.

Good Housekeeping refers to a number of practical measures based on common sense that enterprises can undertake to improve their productivity, obtain cost savings, and reduce the environmental impact of their operations.

For as long as TPG carries the seal of ISO, It is imperative for each and everyone to have that responsibility to live up to the demand and expectations.

> *"We are now in the technology integrated stage where clients are provided the broadest choice with utmost convenience.*
> ***Sa TPG may quality service pa!"***
>
> Francisco J. Colayco
> *President and CEO*

ISO is an idea. Or maybe a re-education for us Filipinos to be conscious, that in whatever we do, we should be doing it efficiently.

It is putting order, or committing to that covenant of delivering good service. All of these are geared to ensure that customers are satisfied. But whatever it claims to represent, It definitely raises the level of competitiveness among employees says Noel P. Mojica, Assistant Vice President for Customer Advocacy.

According to TPG's President and CEO, Francisco J. Colayco, the ISO certification is an integral component that is financial service-oriented. "We're talking about money entrusted to you, therefore, the quality must be consistent. This certification is one clear direction that any self-respecting financial institution must really have. The first 20 years of TPG were selling the years or stage, but in this decade, it is payback time. Success should not be equated to selling, the mindset should be delivery of good service." he said.

TPG MILESTONES

1976 • Professional Pension Plans, Inc. (PPPI) registered as the FIRST Pre-need Pension Plan company on Dec. 22.
• PPPI registration got SEC approval Dec. 27, 1978 PPPI sold its first 1,000 plans by August.
1983 • PPPI awarded the FIRST Pension Plan's retirement benefits in August.
1986 • Professional Plans, Inc. (later known as Professional Academic Plans, Inc.) got SEC approval on November 21.
1988 • PAPI entered the military market with the Armed Forces and Police Savings Loan Association (AFPSLAI) Agreement in March.
1989 • Professional Plans, Inc. was renamed Professional Academic Plans when amended Articles of Incorporation were approved on May 3.
1995 • The Professional Group Plans, Inc. was born when the merger between the Professional Academic Plans, Inc. (PAPI) and the Professional Pension Plans, Inc. (PPPI) was approved on March 7.
1996 • Team Professional moved to its new corporate headquarters, The Professional Tower along EDSA, Mandaluyong City on June 28.
1997 • TPG acquired majority ownership of the Lifeline Arrows Medical Specialist, Inc. (adding health services into its growing roster of services) in May.
1998 • TPG opened The Professional Tower in Cebu in November.
• Asia Meridian Management Corporation, an all Filipino group led by Francisco J. Colayco, assumed majority ownership of TPG from Dharmala International on April 3.
• The Professional Group, The LBC Group of Companies and ATR Holdings Group formed a strategic alliance in September.
1999 • The Professional Group ventured into network marketing through its Unilevel Network Marketing.
2000 • The Professional Group Plans, Inc. changed its corporate name to TPG Corporation.
2001 • TPG Corporationn, in collaboration with ATR-Kim Eng Securities, acquired GE Life and renamed it ATR-Professional Life Assurance, Inc. (TPG Life), adding life insurance into its growing roster of services.
• TPG Corporation attained ISO 9002 Certification in July.

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and

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That's why our Team doesn't equate success to selling, but to the delivery of good service, from the issuance of policy, handling of customer complaints, all the way up to the delivery of plan benefits...

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- Total quality management that ensures delivery of services above and beyond customer's expectations
- Institutionalized quality and operating systems at all levels of the organization
- Instilled culture of champions founded on customer advocacy.

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Registration Schedule

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THE ISO 9002 AWARDING. (from left to right) Paul Bagatsing, AJA's Business Development & Marketing Manager; Donally B. Bringas, TPG's Senior Vice President for Business Development; Hazel Tanguin, TPG's AVP for Corporate Planning; Francisco J. Colayco, TPG's President & CEO; Yolanda D. Miranda, TPG's Executive Vice-President for Finance & Administration; Ramon B. Arnaiz, TPG's Vice Chairman; Gloria de Guzman Olaivar, AJA's Executive Managing Director; Carlos R. Araneta, TPG's Chairman, and Ruben R. Victorino, TPG's VP for Customer Advocacy.

Message

In the past quarter of a century, TPG Corporation (formerly The Professional Group Plans, Inc.) has kept its commitment to help more Filipinos secure their needs in Health, Education, Life and Pension by providing affordable pre-need and at-need products and services.

Over the years, TPG has strengthened its organization and improved its products and services to be more attuned to the needs of Filipino families today. The road to the top has not been without any challenges and hardships. In the face of these challenges and adversity, TPG has remained steadfast to its commitment.

Today, we celebrate another milestone in TPG's history with the conferment of the ISO 9002 certification. With this seal of excellence in quality management comes TPG's renewed commitment to our planholders, strategic partners and the education and government sectors to provide service beyond our customer's expectation.

May this achievement serve as an inspiration for all of us to aspire for even greater heights through continuous innovation in service.

Congratulations Team Professional! Mag-Buhay Professional Tayong Lahat!

Francisco J. Colayco
President and Chief Executive Officer
TPG Corporation

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OPINION

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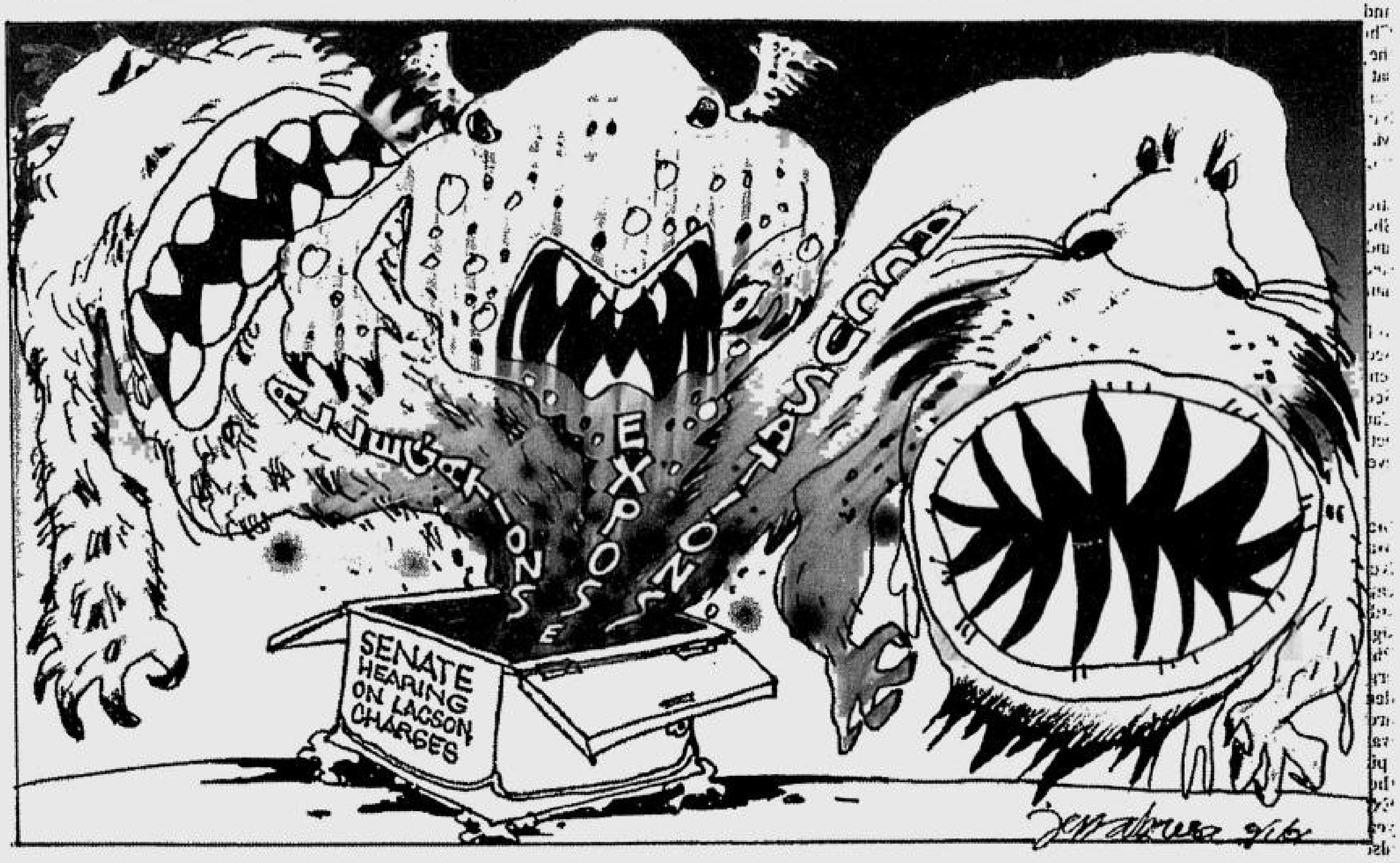


Copy of Erap trial

EDITORIAL

DEVELOPMENTS in the Senate hearings on allegations of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's involvement in money laundering, kidnapping for ransom and drug-trafficking are an uncanny reproduction of the scenes cut out of the template of the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada in the Senate.

As the hearings unfold, new witnesses introduced by Col. Victor Corpus, like Mary Ong alias "Rosebud," and Danny Devnani, have revealed some sordid details about underground drug operations by Philippine criminal syndicates and Hong Kong triads as well as kidnapping plots hatched at the old Club 419 in San Juan, Metro Manila, where, according to Devnani's testimony, Estrada allegedly met with his Chinese cronies and Kuratong Baleleng kidnap gang leaders.

Every day of the hearings, bizarre testimony has been unveiled, giving the public the equivalent of a James Bond thriller involving undercover "penetration agents," sex, love turned sour and drug revenue flowing to senior police officers, and the "Binondo central bank" as a conduit for drug money flowing from this country to Hong Kong. At the center of these revelations is Lacson who in the early 1990s engaged Rosebud as an undercover agent to penetrate the Hong Kong triads. Corpus produced Rosebud as a witness to link Lacson to alleged kidnapping of Chinese nationals.

The introduction of new witnesses has broadened the scope of the Senate inquiry. Corpus' original allegations have become the mother of further disclosures of illegal activities. Whether or not the testimony could hang Lacson is not clear, but the reproduction of the Estrada impeachment template has been highlighted.

Lacson is behaving very much like an Estrada cohort. He has refused to attend the Senate hearings, giving all sorts of excuses and losing the opportunity to answer Corpus' charges. We only hear the familiar sweeping denials, brushing aside the charges as "lies" or fabrications—actions that are absolutely useless in destroying Corpus' allegations.

Rather than confront the details flowing from the hearings, Lacson has made a diversionary attack. He has questioned the legitimacy of the military rank and position of Corpus as chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines on the grounds that Corpus had gone underground with the New People's Army. Lacson has challenged the restoration of Corpus' military status—a diversion that has little to do with disproving the Isafp's dossiers on his alleged criminal activities.

The character of the witnesses like Rosebud and Devnani has been assailed in an attempt to destroy their credibility, the argument being that they are polluted sources. But in the annals of crime investigations, witnesses have usually been "insiders"—people who were part of gangs and who have turned government witnesses. In the sordid world of gangs and even of spies, it takes insiders to reveal the depth and the complexity of criminal activities. It takes partners in crimes to convict criminals. This is the reality that has emerged in the Senate hearings and one should not be surprised about it.

Crimes, like kidnapping, murder and drug trafficking, don't leave a paper trail of documentary evidence. Substantiating crimes is based on witnesses whose credibility is the prop upon which crimes are proved.

Parallels are reproduced from the Estrada impeachment trial. It took a parade of insider witnesses and testimony to build up a case against him—those of ex-Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Emma Lim, Clarissa Ocampo (who testified that Estrada signed the false name "Jose Velarde" on bank documents) etc. Insider testimony tightened the noose around Estrada's neck, and insiders are also turning out to be Lacson's nemesis.

In both the Estrada trial and the allegations against Lacson, the Senate is once again the venue of another gripping drama of corruption whose roots go back to the Estrada era and whose central figures are Estrada's men. Again the Senate is torn between being legalistic in hearing evidence and allowing a full exposure of corruption and crimes involving public officials so that the public may be alerted about national security threats.

From the evidence so far introduced, we are getting an idea of how crime has penetrated deeply into Philippine society. The inquiry has opened cleavages inside the Senate, where Lacson, unlike Estrada, has shielded himself with parliamentary immunity and has found a platform from which to attack his accusers. This time, the Senate has a bomb embedded in its bosom.

Adversaries or business partners?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT is now the first of September, and the promised victory of the Armed Forces over the Abu Sayyaf is still up in the air. Last June, the military announced that it had surrounded the bandit group and would capture it within a week. That week has come and gone, but the Abu Sayyaf is still thumbing its nose at the government.

With all the battalions at their command, the Armed Forces seem to be putty in the hands of the outlaws. The molehill has upstaged the mountain. It is like the primitive Vietcong confounding their superior American enemy during the '60s. The difference is that the motivation of the Vietcom was ideology while that of the Abu Sayyaf is greed.

Originally estimated to have only about 400 members, the Abu Sayyaf has reportedly grown in number and resources. The ransom it has extorted has made it filthy rich. Converts have been attracted to it because of this and possibly also of their disenchantment with the authorities.

It is incomprehensible how the military could have been outwitted in that Basilan siege. They had the bandits in their sights and range, and yet their targets escaped. The outlaws apparently knew an exit the soldiers had left unguarded although they claimed the hospital was surrounded. The military complained that some civilians aided the bandits, but how was this possible with the area supposedly sealed?

Since then, the Abu Sayyaf has continued its rampage of kidnapping and even beheaded some of its victims. Some of those killed were ordinary civilians without political leanings or ransom value. Presumably, the object of the bandits was only to sow fear among the people, particularly those inclined to help the military.

The military, for its part, has been less than proper in its treatment of the civilian community in general. It has established checkpoints where many suspects have been indiscriminately picked up without warrant and subjected to torture. Many of the townspeople have complained of being unjustly accused and arbitrarily lumped with the outlaws.

In justification of their methods, Gen. Edilberto Adan, the spokesman of the Armed Forces, has arrogantly declared: "These people are vicious and evil. Let's put these charges in the proper context—we're fighting a war, a vicious war." In the first place, there is no war. In the second place, even war has its rules on the humane treatment of combatants and civilians.

And now there is the widespread belief that the military is actually in cahoots with the Abu Sayyaf. It is said that while the soldiers and the bandits are shelling each other, their leaders are reportedly negotiating *sub rosa* for the sharing of ransom and the giving of bribes. The principal beneficiary of these under the table deals is the Abu Sayyaf, with some Armed Forces officers enjoying collateral profits.

No less than a former hostage, and a priest at that, has made the startling disclosure. He alleges that the bandits escaped from the surrounded battleground not because they were able to elude the military but because they paid their way out. In other words, they were able to escape because they were *allowed* to escape for a fee collected by the other side.

It was hard to believe that Reghis Romero and his two companions escaped from the Abu Sayyaf a few days after their kidnap. It was easier to suspect that the supposed escape had been jointly orchestrated by the outlaws and their pursuers merely for public consumption. The bandit group, with its reputation for ruthlessness, could not have been that careless to enable a woman and a child, let alone Romero, to slip away undetected.

Credible or not, the consensus is that Romero, a known multi-millionaire, paid a hefty price for his and his companions' release. They did not escape but were released after millions of pesos disarmed the Abu Sayyaf. The stage-managed escape was meant to conceal the hand of the military in the shady deal and at the same time give it some credit for the "rescue."

The current speculations have resurrected similar reports connected with the earlier kidnap last year of a number of foreigners. It was also openly charged then that the government negotiators had arranged for the ransom of the hostages by their respective governments or families. There was also suspicion of a broker's fee by arrangement with the Abu Sayyaf, but this was flatly denied and soon forgotten.

It is gratifying that this time earnest efforts are being made by Congress to get to the bottom of the serious accusations. Gov. Wahab Akbar of Basilan, Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Col. Juvenal Narcise et al. have been called to defend themselves against the charges of their involvement. Their accusers, including Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, have also been given a chance to support their allegations.

The direct testimony of Romero and the two companions who escaped or were released with him must be carefully evaluated by the House defense committee, to resolve all doubts of connivance between the Abu Sayyaf and the local government and military authorities. This is imperative if the line between the bandits and the government is to be clearly defined.

And while they are at it, the legislative probers should look into the equally disturbing report that some military officers are secretly selling arms to the Abu Sayyaf. The evidence offered is that the bandits are using certain types of weapons that are available only from the Armed Forces armory. The offense, if proved, will constitute not only whole-scale theft but disloyalty to the Republic.

Things are really getting curiouser and curiouser, but anything can happen in this cockeyed country. I do not mean to trivialize our problems, but I'm glad we Filipinos have a sense of humor. Otherwise, with all these difficulties besetting us, our country could well become a mammoth mental institution.

When the roof seems to be falling

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

RECENT events have cast doubts on the credibility and integrity of many government institutions: the Senate, the House, the military, the national police, the courts, the ombudsman, the executive. And some sectors are seeing something sinister behind some or all of these.

One school of thought (although using the term may be giving its proponents too much intellectual credit) is that this is part of a deliberate attempt by Malacañang to discredit potential rivals for the presidency come 2004. Another is that it is an opposition plot, the objective being to keep Malacañang so busy putting out political fires it will be unable to post any gains for the country. Still, a third point of view is that it is neither the opposition nor Malacañang that is behind this, but a third force (with Col. Victor Corpus as a witting or unwitting tool), whose aim is to get the public so desperate and frustrated that it will welcome a coup with open arms.

Frankly, the likelier and more obvious explanation is that there are no plots and counterplots. The growing public disaffection with these institutions is caused by the institutions themselves. No outside help needed, except from the media, and that only in the sense of providing blow-by-blow accounts of the process of self-destruction.

However, that the unpleasant glare of publicity has showed up the weaknesses of these institutions may well prove to be a blessing rather than a bane. Because it has created a growing pressure for them to shape up, strengthen themselves and rid themselves of their bad habits or their bad eggs.

Take the case of the Senate. The TV cameras captured the senators' behavior for all to see (and to comment on). The public's reaction to the senators' antics is, to my mind, best reflected by a text message which I received four times—a blistering, sarcastic commentary which is the more biting because it is so short: "Next time…if you sell drugs, kidnap and kill people, rob banks and smuggle goods, please get/give receipts. Our honorable senators need them for evidence."

It is not coincidental, methinks, that subsequent televised Senate activities showed the senators assuming a more statesmanlike mien.

Or look at the PNP. It is common knowledge that the organization has been riven by deep divisions, caused in part by the politization of the bureaucracy, where it seems to be no longer what the police officers know but who they know that determines promotions and assignments. Moreover, turf disagreements regarding gambling and drugs have exacerbated these divisions.

Wasn't it Ping Lacson who first called attention to the coddling of drug dealers by certain police officials, and even naming then PNP Director General Roberto Lastimoso as one of them? It was through Lacson's efforts, I seem to recall, that Lastimoso was kicked out of his job and charged before the Sandiganbayan.

Thus current and past police officials who protest their outrage and innocence with respect to the Mary Ong charges are doing it too brown. Their claim that these charges are unfounded and serve only to destroy the institution leaves one cold. In any case, investigating police involvement in illegal drugs will not destroy the PNP as an institution. What will destroy it is if there is an attempt to whitewash or ignore the charges.

With respect to the military, a similar situation applies. There has long been a suspicion, even during the Estrada administration, that some military officers in Mindanao have been involved in selling army materiel and equipment to the Abu Sayyaf and even receiving a cut from the ransom payments of kidnap victims. The accusations brought up by Fr. Cirilo Nacorda have merely brought these issues to a head. The outrage, the complaints of troop morale destruction, don't wash.

About our ombudsman, let it be repeated: If there is anyone who has weakened the credibility of his office, it is he himself. I don't know how many times he has been slapped down by the Supreme Court, either for gross abuse of discretion or sheer ignorance of the law.

Then we have the House of Representatives, where some congressmen have been using their power of investigation not in aid of legislation but in aid of remuneration. That they have adopted the AC-DC (attack-collect-defend-collect) methods of some media people for their own use is bad enough. Worse is that the House is making no attempt to flush out the culprits and punish them. Rather, rules will just be tightened. The boys-will-be-boys mentality.

There are still Malacañang, the courts and even the Comelec to talk about, of course, but the general drift is the same. If they are weakened or in crisis, they have no one but themselves to blame.

But it bears repeating: If the roof seems to be falling in on these institutions, it should be considered a boon rather than a bane. Because those from within whose actions are responsible for giving these institutions a bad name are being served notice that the times, they are a-changing. They will no longer be allowed to get away with murder. Or at least, it is not going to be so easy anymore.

GMA impressed foreign investors in Brunei

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN BRUNEI President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo presided over the meeting between Brunei businessmen and the business delegation from Manila and Mindanao, led by Ben Chua of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Mike Varela of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I sat in at that meeting and I noted that GMA made a very good impression among the Bruneians as she batted for the revival of the Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia-Philippines-East Asean Growth Area (Bimp-Eaga).

Projecting a hands-on management style, she stressed that she has a "young and dynamic" Cabinet. She told the Brunei businessmen that her economic and finance team may be young in age but they are steeped in the world of international business and finance.

Among the Cabinet members who accompanied her to Brunei were Energy Secretary Vince Perez, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, Housing Secretary Mike Defensor, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Press Secretary Noel Cabrera. Finance Secretary Lito Camacho joined them in Singapore. All of these Cabinet members are from 45 to 56 years old, and look even younger.

* * *

My husband and I were invited by the chair of the Mashhor Group of companies, Haji Malai Mashhor, to his stately Spanish-style mansion in Kuala Belait, a two-hour drive from the Bruneian capital, for dinner. At the business conference presided by President Macapagal, Haji Mashhor signed a memorandum of understanding with the Philippine government for joint exploration of energy sources. Over dinner at his home, which, incidentally, was designed by Singapore-based Filipino architect Ramon Pichay, Haji Mashhor told us he was very impressed with GMA and that she inspired confidence among the foreign investors. On the other hand, a Filipino executive of Mashhor, Expedito "Bitoy" Narciso, who had worked for 25 years with Brunei Shell before joining Mashhor, also recounted how proud he felt as a Filipino when he saw GMA working in a very stately manner with Sultan Bolkiah at the Palace banquet.

* * *

The Mashhor Group's main business is in general construction, but like any big conglomerate, it has diversified into just about every business endeavor, from the construction of oil and gas pipelines under the ocean and the repair of oil rigs to food catering for hundreds of people working in five major rigs of Brunei Shell. The Group, which has an annual business volume of about $250 million, has over 1,000 employees. Of these, about 40 percent are Bruneians and 60 percent foreign; about 25-30 percent of the foreign group are Filipinos. A handful of Filipinos occupy managerial positions, including Narciso, general manager of the Mashhor Clough company; Rey Mallari, a former Shell man who is now Mashhor manager for business development; and Manuel N. Sundian Jr., manager and marketing man for Mashhor Foods.

* * *

These Filipino expats in Mashhor are part of the 21,000 Pinoys holding good jobs in Brunei. Another 200 to 300 Pinoys are with Brunei Shell, the major company in the kingdom. Many of them are engineers, but there are also nurses, teachers, hotel personnel, factory workers and shop attendants, and a few hundred domestics in Bruneian families.

We met over lunch with our amiable ambassador to Brunei, former Antique Gov. Enrique Zaldivar, and he told us that he is really enjoying his stint there, and has few problems with the Pinoy community. Where problems have arisen, Zaldivar deals with them in his unique style, derived from his *cariñoso* Visayan manner and his experience as governor.

There have been several strikes in factories involving Filipinos, largely over their complaint that the contract stipulation on salaries did not match the wages paid to them. Zaldivar has fought for the Pinoys' rights in his meetings with their employers. One time he took the strikers into his home for two weeks and fed them until they could be repatriated. Apparently this caught the attention of the media and of course it embarrassed the employers, who gave in to the Filipinos' demands. Part of the group decided to go back to work, while the rest flew on to Manila.

* * *

After the rousing get-together of the Filipino community with President Macapagal in Brunei, I spotted Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II walking into the hall where GMA was to hold her press conference. I asked how Philippine business and the economy were doing. Roxas took a deep breath and said that while some investors were beginning to take a good look again at the Philippines, he was worried about the slowing down of the world economy, including our traditional trading partners, the United States and Japan. This, he opined, is bound to affect our recovery.

Roxas said that the one lesson these world economic developments should teach us is that we have to rely on our own wits, to pull ourselves up—*sariling sikap*—since other countries big and small have their own problems. He said the DTI was doing all it could to help especially the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) weather the economic storm by cutting costs. For instance, he says, the DTI was keen on lowering the cost of transporting goods between the islands.

* * *

I also asked business leader Raul Concepcion how the economy was doing, and he said the businessmen were happy that the peso appeared to have stabilized somewhat. This gave them hope that the economy would right itself. The government's campaign to make banks stop speculating against the peso led to the unloading of a lot of dollars, easing the demand and strengthening the peso. In fact, at some point, ironically, the businessmen found the peso strengthening too fast. Concepcion said that just as important to businessmen is the stabilization of the peso, since a volatile currency makes planning difficult for them.

* * *

Incidentally, when I saw several businessmen standing aimlessly at the imposing lobby of the vast Empire Hotel and Country Club, which was built to house the foreign leaders during the Apec Summit last November, I asked them, "Where's the happening?"

In Brunei? You got to be kidding, they replied. Being a Muslim country, Brunei does not allow the sale of liquor in the open, not even beer, anywhere. And there isn't any nightlife the way people know it in Manila. The bars sell only fruit juice. Liquor is allowed in private homes, and in the hotels, they would overlook some drinking, provided it is done in function rooms and during meals.

Islamic studies, anyone?

YOUNGBLOOD

Prospero M. Laput

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WHEN they heard that I had decided to spend the next two years studying Islam, my friends were puzzled. Yuppies do not waste time studying religion; they invest for the future by getting their MBAs. And why bother with Arabic texts and debating Muslim philosophy when you are a Christian? Why sacrifice time and money when your future office will probably be the jungles of Basilan?

In jest, I tell my friends all is not lost. I intend to become a negotiator for the Abu Sayyaf and earn big bucks for my efforts. Even if the government crushes the current Abu Sayyaf leadership, chances are another group will take its place in time for my graduation.

But seriously, the reason I am now studying at the Institute of Islamic Studies is nothing more than plain and simple ignorance.

I grew up in the old, small, largely Catholic town of Dapitan in Zamboanga del Norte. There, Muslims were barely a noticeable presence. What constantly reminded us then that we were part of the so-called Muslim autonomous region were the Muslim holidays that gave us extra days away from school. Every now and then, the radio would inform us the authorities had declared a Muslim holiday. We did not bother asking what kind of holiday it was, and our parents probably wouldn't have been able to tell us anyway.

As far as I knew, the Muslims were just out there, far away, in another part of the big island of Mindanao. Our teachers described them as fierce fighters who resisted colonial rule. They had their own traditions and a way of life vastly different from the world we lived in.

So who cared about the struggle of the Bangsa Moro when life was easy and peaceful? I lived a comfortable life free from noise, pollution and the rush of people. At precisely six in the evening, everyone and everything came to a standstill as the antique church bells tolled the "Angelus." In Dapitan, it was almost a sin for anyone not to observe that Catholic ritual every day.

As I grew up, I became more aware of the false sense of peace and security with which I had been surrounded. Every now and then, I would hear about clashes between Muslim rebels and the military in some areas of Mindanao. I saw the pictures and I read about the casualties. I knew that a fellow named Nur Misuari was out there trying to force Muslim rule upon us Christians. But for many years, I never bothered to look at it in a different way.

Indifference, however, cannot last forever, or so I learned. It ended when I started to be afraid that the next bus I would take might be the next wreckage flashed on television. My freedom to move around was threatened by the fear that I would be the next clueless victim blown to pieces by a home-made bomb which the military would say some extremist group planted.

In recent years, the reality hit closer to home. In 1996, the Abu Sayyaf and other armed gangs raided the town of Ipil, just two hours away from Dapitan. The bandits could have picked our small, unprotected town to loot and ravage. I wondered what would have happened to all of us then.

In 1997, the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development was established amid some controversy about polarizing Christians and Muslims. But now "war" seems to be in the air again. Mindanao, which seemed very close to peace after the government concluded a peace pact with the Moro National Liberation Front, is still torn by conflict. It seems that the cycle of violence sinks deeper into the mud every time someone tries to push it out.

What is behind this perpetual conflict in Mindanao? What is it in Islam that empowers Muslims to be warriors in the name of Allah? What suffering warrants so much fury?

When I tried to answer these questions, I came to the shocking realization that I did not know anything about the politics and history of my own country. I knew nothing about Muslims and I had not made any effort to know them. If our small town in Mindanao harbors so much prejudice against them, how much more the millions of other Filipinos living far from Mindanao?

The problems faced by our Muslim brothers are really the same problems many non-Muslim Filipinos suffer: poverty, lack of housing, poor education and health, unemployment. But while the government has come up with plans to deal with these problems, putting those same solutions to work in an Islamic society may not prove fruitful. My teachers at the UP Institute of Islamic Studies believe the issue is multifaceted and so its solution requires a holistic approach. Hearing about people being beheaded should not harden our belief that Muslims are evil. Because we are Christians, we should not close our minds and stop our efforts to understand them.

Like many of us, Muslims are also searching for their place in a rapidly changing world which seems to be sucking us into globalization and homogeneity. Beyond the current Mindanao conflict is the bigger problem of finding common grounds among Christians and Muslims as well as among Muslims themselves. Karen Armstrong, who used to be a Catholic nun and who wrote "The Battle for God," puts it simply: "To prevent an escalation of the conflict, we must understand the pain and perceptions of the other side."

So, why Islamic studies? If my understanding of the Moros and my homeland started from childhood, I probably would not be asked this question.

Prospero M. Laput, 29, traveled across the country as a researcher for a Japanese television company, chasing after stories of Filipinos and their problems. He enrolled at the UP Institute of Islamic Studies in search of his own story. This is the prologue to the story that should have been written years ago, he says.

The national soap opera

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"LET'S not turn this into a telenovela," someone said during the "Debate with Mare and Pare" last Thursday, which "starred" feuding ex-lovers Mary Ong and John Campos. What made the remark all the more remarkable was that, amid the hooting, teasing and *kantiyawan* that went on while "Mary" and "John" were exchanging barbs, the lone voice of reason was that of a young person, who was clearly not amused at the goings-on.

Truth to tell, I thought the young man needed to lighten up a bit. I, too, was enjoying this latest wrinkle in the "narco-politics cum money laundering" saga. I mean, you couldn't ask for a better casting. Here was Ong, straight out of film noir tradition (think Ingrid Bergman in "Notorious") as a spy risking her life for country and the man she loves. Physically, you couldn't ask for a better "Mata Hari," pale, porcelain skin with doe eyes dramatically outlined in dark mascara (that doesn't run despite her tearful revelations). And Mother Lily should snap up her wardrobe consultant. My, what an impact "Rosebud" made when she showed up at the Senate in her violet and fuchsia silk Chinese-style blouse. In subsequent TV appearances, she was careful to maintain the fragile Oriental maiden look, once facing TV cameras in a blood-red Mandarin-collar blouse.

Campos, who looked like quite a stud in photos Ong had given the media to prove her contention that they had been lovers many years ago, is somewhat of a disappointment. Though Ong is 10 years older, today he looks like her curmudgeonly uncle, an impression not helped any by his dour expression and his blunt, almost offensive, attacks on Ong. Get yourself an image consultant quick!

* * *

IN THE COLD, sober light of morning, though, harping on the telenovela aspects of this latest chapter in the Corpus-Lacson narrative seems a tad irreverent.

Though it has story material that would put "Pangako Sa 'Yo" to shame, the tale told by Ong and Campos has serious undertones. I mean, you can't get any more serious than "Rosebud's" claim that Camp Crame itself is the headquarters of the country's drug trade!

Sen. Ping Lacson's cohorts, Campos foremost among them, have been quick to dismiss Ong as a woman scorned, getting back at a former lover by blackening his name and everyone else involved in their operations. (Talk about a soap opera plot!) With each day, Ong's revelations grow even more creepy, the latest involving an attempted salvaging and hints of sexual improprieties from the law enforcement elite.

Even if only 10 percent of Ong's accusations were true, they paint a truly alarming scenario. When drug enforcement officials turn around and take over the smuggling and sale of drugs, then that makes our anti-drug program a joke, and our police crime lords. This is not the first time Ong has spoken out on the issue, mind. This is just her first time to be speaking before the Senate.

What we must ask is why revelations of such import have been ignored until now.

* * *

ANOTHER instant star is of course Angelo Mawanay, alias Ador. Where in the beginning he was so fearful for his and his family's life that he would face the cameras only with dark glasses and the rest of his face covered, nowadays he's all over the media. And he's talking, not just about his "career" as a PAOCTF civilian agent and Lacson gofer, but also about his childhood and how he fell into a life in the criminal underground. Interviewed on "Pipol," he also came complete with props, a dextrose drip that he said he needed because he had been so weakened by dehydration. But even if he could hardly stand, he said, he would be willing to lug his dextrose bottle with him to the Senate floor to testify. You've certainly come a long way, Ador!

One needling question, though, is what happens to people like Ador, Ong and Campos, or even Reghis Romero, Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, the witnesses from Lamitan, and the military and police officers haled before congressional hearings, when the senators, congresspersons and the media are through with them. With time, the sheen of their celebrity will fade. And it's when they slip back into obscurity that the risk is greatest to them.

So while we feast on the soap-opera trimmings of this increasingly convoluted story line, let's keep in mind that for real people, the danger is very real and immediate, indeed.

* * *

REACTING to comments I made on his reaction to the story that an Abu Sayyaf leader had been infected with HIV, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez writes that he "never joked about the report that Susukan (the Abu Sayyaf leader) has HIV." Golez says that when reporters asked him about it, all he said was "That's his problem and that is what you call karma." In fact, he said, "I cut short the interview as I did not relish discussing it further."

David M. Johnson wants to know how reporters "could stoop so low" as to report that an Abu Sayyaf leader has tested positive for HIV. "Do these reporters believe the Elisa test, and the confirmatory test, Western Blot, are available in the jungles of Basilan?" he asks.

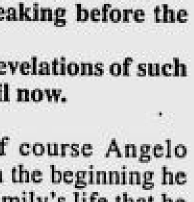
Mujib Susukan actually belongs to the Jolo command of the Abu Sayyaf, but the report did not say where the test, if any, was done.

Watti Yu from San Juan says that s/he agrees with me that it was callous and stupid of Presidential Adviser on Mindanao Jesus Dureza to say that he would give a medal to the woman who infected Susukan with HIV. But s/he disagrees with my assertion that nobody deserves HIV. "To quote Clint Eastwood in the movie 'Unforgiven,' 'deserve has got nothing to with it.' This guy had it coming. I only wish he got the Ebola virus and not HIV."

Pirate wars (2)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



DURING the British occupation, Manila was in no position to pay attention to the Mindanao problem and the Moros were free to carry on with their normal activities. Previous agreements were flagrantly ignored or broken.

After the British left, an emissary from Jolo was killed together with his family, and Datu Bantilan went to war against Borneo in retaliation. Both Borneans and Joloanos presented their case to Manila, but the latter decided not to take sides for fear of increasing the enmity. Feeling slighted, the Sultan of Jolo declared war instead on Manila encouraged by the Mindanaoans. Even if the sultan were inclined to peace, his datus, who made their living through piracy, were all for ending interference from Manila.

Their best allies were the Maranaos and Tiranos who were bold enough to come within cannon sight of the capital and captured fishermen and natives gathering firewood in the mangroves. After they seized two Chinese sampans loaded with goods near Mariveles, other ships became afraid of crossing Manila Bay. The pirates took their captives and the sampans to Mamburao, Mindoro, where they thought they would be safe. There they entrenched themselves and started to do business selling their prisoners to some Macazars and islanders.

On orders of Lt. Col. Jose Jarando, chatelaine and justice in the Cavite port, a lieutenant from the frigate Aurea, Gabriel Aristizabal, hurriedly put together an armada in Cavite with the objective of invading Mamburao. It was composed of one *paquebot*, three *galeras*, a launch and eight Visayan *caracoas* with a crew of 1,252. It sailed on Oct. 21 and docked on the bar of Mamburao on Oct. 30. Protected by cannon fire, a reconnaissance patrol went ashore and afterwards two officials reported that the Moros had fortified themselves in the Maasin River. The land troops disembarked while the pirates took refuge in one of the river bends.

After further reconnoitering the area, the Visayans announced that behind the entrenchment they had found a vinta full of palay guarded by five Moros who had taken off when the troops opened fire. They were unable to secure the vinta that was across the river, exactly where the fort was and the *panco* of the Moros was moored.

By the time they neared the fort, they could hear little noise and could not see any fire. They concluded that the pirates were abandoning their entrenchment. To impede their departure, the large launch and two smaller ones with some troops sailed to the confluence of the Mamburao and Maasin Rivers where the fort was located. A total of 150 Visayans and six Zamboangueños went on foot, meeting the launches that were then used as foot bridges to cross to the other side of the river to reach the fort situated on the upper level. They found it abandoned.

The palisade was some 12 feet in height and made of thick trunks of hard wood more than three feet long, tied with rattan. Within was a three-foot wide platform fenced with spikes, bamboo and wooden boards. At the foot of the walk that encircled the interior was a trench about three- or four-feet deep and in its center were more trenches that served as quarters roofed with nipa.

The damage suffered by the Moros a few days earlier at the hands of Aristizabal and his men must have been serious to judge by the trails of blood in the trenches and the graves that were discovered later in the forest. What caught everyone's attention was a half-buried corpse in a box with his head protruding and with a fresh wound on his chest covered with painted blankets. They presumed he was a person of some importance.

Many goods were found inside the fort. Some had been damaged. None was of silk. Neither did they find the sampans that the pirates must have taken with them together with the rest of the goods. They found gun carriages, a *lantaca*, more than 10,000 lances, armor vestments, a lot of palay and pots and pans of clay.

The vinta seen the previous day had been abandoned on the riverbank and was taken over by the Visayan and Zamboangueño troops. They also took three *pancos* that the pirates had left behind.

The expedition was terminated when some of the soldiers from Malabar developed a kind of eye disease that left them temporarily blind (it lasted for some months) due to the thickness of the dew. No Moro was captured.

The expedition cost the government P25,260, which was recovered through the auction of the recovered goods which fetched P31,026. The results, though hardly constituting total defeat of the enemy, bolstered the spirits of the people who had been feeling downhearted.

But the reality was that between the failure of the harvest and the earthquake of Feb. 1, 1771 which convinced everyone that the end had come, Luzon was in a state of misery. But this didn't compare with the devastation of the Visayas whose residents were fleeing to Manila with their mayors and parish priests. It seemed that the Moros, infuriated by the events in Mamburao, were throwing caution to the wind and were boasting that they were armed like never before both on land and sea.

THEY SAID

Death of a good man

"Why does a good man have to die when there are many bad guys who should die first?"

—Farmer-trader Bob Anton on the murder of Fr. Rufus Halley

Always ugly

"War is always ugly, no matter how one would justify it."

—Fr. Rufus Halley once said of the conflict between Moro rebels and the government

Reeking of corruption

"The problem is not just caused by a few bad eggs but a basket of rotten apples. Government itself, its every nook and cranny, is reeking of corruption."

—Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza

Own trap

"The more they talk against me, the more they will fall into their own trap."

—Mary "Rosebud" Ong on denials and counteraccusations made by police officials she linked to crimes

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Workers and other Filipinos abroad

PLEASE allow us to clarify and put in perspective information attributed to the Commission on Filipinos Overseas in your editorial last Aug. 28, "Giving. the vote to OFWs."

The figure of 7.38 million Filipinos overseas in the estimates of the CFO (as of December 2000) refers to the whole Philippine-born overseas Filipino population, which consists of about 2.55 million immigrants and permanent residents abroad, about 2.99 million overseas Filipino workers or OFWs who are temporarily residing abroad, and about 1.84 million persons of irregular status.

There is a need to correct the rather common misconception that all overseas Filipinos are OFWs, which is not the case because about one-third of Filipinos abroad are actually immigrants or legal permanent residents or spouses of foreign nationals whose stay does not depend on employment contracts. On the other hand, OFWs would fall under the category of persons whose stay abroad, while regular or properly documented, is temporary, owing to the employment-related nature of their stay in their host country. OFWs are also expected to return to the Philippines when their work contracts expire.

Irregular migrants, the third category, consist of those who are not properly documented, or who are without valid residence or work permits, or who may simply be overstaying workers or tourists in a foreign country.

The estimated total of 7.38 million Filipinos abroad (who fall into these three separate categories) are correctly described as "overseas Filipinos."

An estimate on the potential number of voters abroad would be based on the number of Filipino citizens who are qualified to vote, not on their residency or working status. The reason we believe the potential number of voters to be considerably lower than 7.38 million is that some overseas Filipinos have taken other citizenship while a significant number (30 percent) of immigrants are of minor age.—**JOSE Z. MOLANO JR., executive director, Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Department of Foreign Affairs, Citigold Center, 1345 President Quirino Ave cor. South Superhighway, Manila**

Taiwan wants more submarines

FEATURE

Alice Hung

ABOARD THE SEA TIGER—The crew of Taiwan's Sea Tiger submarine went on combat alert after radars detected a suspicious object. Torpedo tubes were flooded and ready for firing.

It was a routine drill aboard the Dutch-made Zwaardvis class submarine, The Sea Tiger and its identical sister vessel, the Sea Dragon—Taiwan's only combat-ready submarines.

Taiwan has long sought to upgrade its feeble fleet of four submarines which also includes a pair of Guppy II's, rusty relics of World War II. But nobody has dared deliver the goods to Taiwan since China downgraded relations with the Netherlands from 1981 to 1984 over its sale of the two diesel-electric submarines.

China, for its part, maintains a fleet of about 60 to 70 submarines. Only a handful are thought to be operational, but Beijing has spent billions of dollars on four Russian Kilo class diesel submarines that give it a clear edge over Taiwan, according to US officials.

China regards Taiwan as a rebel province and has threatened to attack if the island declares independence or delays reunification talks unduly.

"The two (Dutch) submarines are in excellent condition," said Peter Wang, security officer of the Sea Tiger, at a naval base in southern Taiwan. "We are well trained and ready to fight. But we need more."

Taiwan's pleas for more submersibles had been left unanswered until earlier this year when US President George W. Bush agreed to sell eight diesel submarines in the biggest arms sale package in more than a decade. But months have passed and it is unclear how the United States will provide the vessels because it builds only nuclear submarines, not diesel ones.

Experts have said the submarines would likely be Dutch-designed and German-built boats equipped with US technology and supplied under a deal brokered by the United States. But the Netherlands and Germany have denied they would export or build submarines for Taiwan.

"We are still talking with the US side," said a Taiwanese naval officer who declined to be identified.

Chung Chien, a military expert who teaches in the Armed Forces University, said the United States would likely help the island build the vessels.

A spokesperson for Taiwan's state-run China Shipbuilding Corp. said the firm could build the submarines—with help.

Washington also plans to sell Taiwan four Kidd class destroyers and a dozen P-3 Orion anti-submarine aircraft.

But the submarines will make the biggest splash.

Officials and analysts agree Taiwan's biggest threat is not conventional warfare, but a Chinese missile attack or naval blockade.

With submarines, Taiwan could thwart an amphibious attack from China and give its navy an offensive capability.

Beijing argues submarines are not defensive weapons and should not be provided under the US-Taiwan Relations Act, which obliges Washington to provide the island with enough arms to defend itself.

New submarines could undermine China's three main options for retaking Taiwan: amphibious assault, naval blockade and missile strikes, defense analysts say.

In combination with Taiwan jet fighters, they could scupper an amphibious assault launched from China's east coast.

But more worrisome for Beijing, the submarines could eventually be used to launch cruise missiles to respond to or preempt a missile attack from the mainland.

Commander Wang, who has served aboard the Sea Tiger since shortly after Taiwan took delivery of the two vessels in 1987, said he was confident the sub would soon get undersea companions.

"We have overcome the biggest obstacle—the United States has said yes. I have never felt so confident." ***Reuters***

Roving watchmen could have saved lives

WHATEVER the outcome of the Manor Hotel fire investigation, there is one point I wish to call the attention of your readers about it. In many hotels, if not in all those where I've stayed around the world, I always noticed the presence of a security or watchman, if you will, roving in every floor.

Assuming that the Manor Hotel could not afford such a security force, if that small hotel had posted only one roving night watchman, the smoke would have been immediately detected. This watchman in turn could have made a wake-up call on all the rooms that were occupied. That would have spared many lives, if not all the lives of those trapped inside the hotel who were fast asleep until they woke up already being choked to death.

Many hotel guests became aware of the suffocating smoke too late.

It is not correct to rely on the fire alarm system. By the time fumes engulfed the whole building, the electricity had been cut off and the alarm system was no longer working since it was powered by electricity.

A roving security guard or a night watchman could have sounded the alarm before the electricity went off.

Now that it had happened, I pray to God that this tragedy does not become a milking cow for some Quezon City officials. It is common knowledge that public officials welcome tragedies just as courts hunger for "big cases" for there is big money to be made.

The way I see it, the Genato family will end without a piece of land, a building and other assets in Quezon City—not because they paid the aggrieved parties but because they fattened the pockets of some public officials.

How many times have this happened before? Could that also be the case in the Ozone tragedy? Did the money intended for the victims' families get into the wrong hands?—**MANUEL L. MORATO, Quezon City**

A time for protest

WHILE South Korea and China vigorously protested Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi's visit to the Japanese war shrine, the silence from the Philippines was deafening. This Japanese shrine is where World War II Japanese criminals, including Gen. Hideki Tojo, the mastermind of the Bataan Death March, is buried.

My father, a member of the Philippine Scouts, was one of the 75,000 Filipino and American troops who were forced to join this horrendous March. Thousands died. Although my father survived, the scars of disease and his incarceration haunted him for the rest of his life.

I have three other relatives whose names are etched in the marble pillars of the American Memorial Cemetery near Fort Bonifacio for giving their lives for our country. Doubtless, a lot of us and our relatives have terrible memories of the war. They suffered indignities at the hands of Japanese troops. Our government must speak up and join the chorus of protests all over Asia.

It should be mentioned here that there were some right thinking Japanese who protested this insensitive gesture of their prime minister.

Is the Philippines suffering from a collective Alzheimer's disease? Don't we have a national identity and pride to speak of anymore? What do our Asian neighbors who also suffered but are more vocal about their experiences think about our restraint? Do we really care? Have we deteriorated into being lackeys? Have we suppressed our feelings because of the mighty yen?

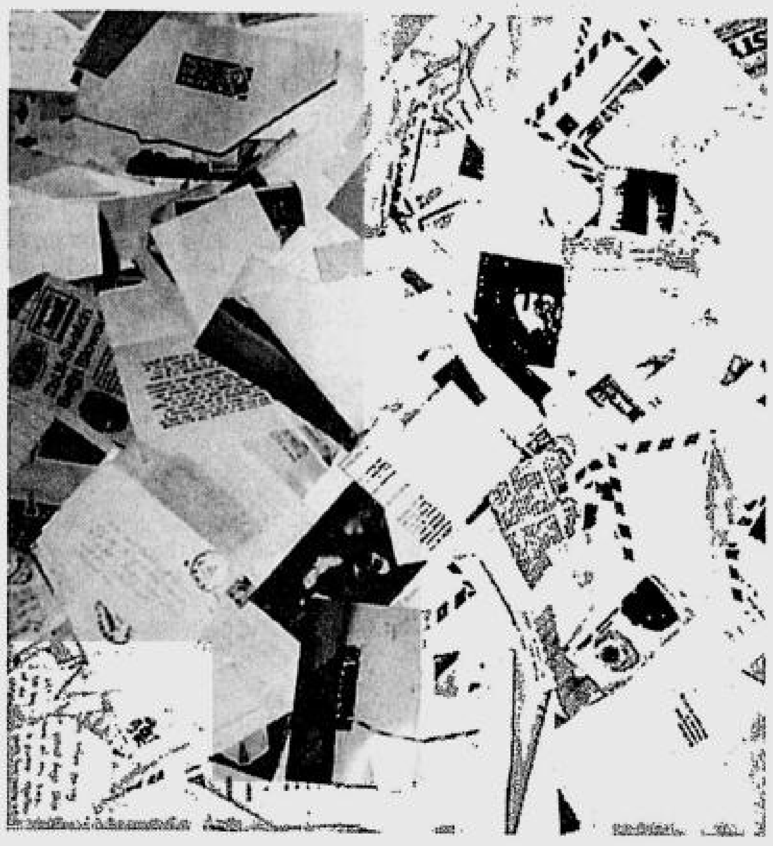
It's time to remonstrate and be heard together with the millions of other voices crying out in protest throughout Asia.—**CELSO F. AURELIO, celso.aurelio@scbdesign.com**

Snail mail taking longer to arrive

I WOULD like to know from our friends in the postal service if they can ever find a solution to the horribly slow delivery of mail to the provinces.

There used to be a time when the Mercury mail service introduced by Roilo Golez, then chief of the Bureau of Posts, was able to deliver letters mailed in Manila to Cagayan Valley in one day, or at most three days. At present, letters mailed in Manila are delivered to provincial addresses six to eight days later. And to think that we pay double for so-called express mail.

If newspapers can reach Cagayan Valley within 12 to 15 hours, why can't the delivery of our letters be cut to three days?—**FR. JOSE G. INGARAN (ret.), Guibang, Gamu, Isabela 3301**



Legislating a land-use policy

YOUR cartoon last Aug. 26 was a real but sad commentary on how things are in our country. After the Manor Hotel blaze that killed over 70 people, the Quezon City government has been conducting raids and closing down establishments that have not been complying with fire safety regulations. This is very similar to what happened after the Ozone disco fire a few years back. Unfortunately, just like in the Ozone tragedy, when the glare of the media lights shall have faded, so too will the vigilance of government. This is always what happens after disasters of any kind strike.

After the Ormoc City, Cherry Hills and Payatas tragedies, every politician paid lip service to the need to pass a national land-use policy. This policy is needed to rationalize the allocation and use of lands, to determine what lands are used for what purpose, so as to ensure the sustainable use and development of the country's land resources for the benefit of all sectors. All the previous administrations placed the National Land Use Code on their legislative agenda. Unfortunately, they didn't deliver.

How we treat our land and other natural resources is the most basic ingredient for a meaningful and sustained development for the country. This seems to be lost to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, however. During her State of the Nation Address, she failed to include the National Land Use Code on her priority legislative agenda. Neither did she mention any environmental law that she wanted to be passed.

At the heart of her Sona was her blueprint for addressing poverty. But she failed to realize that integral to solving the issue of poverty is solving our environmental and resource problems.

Speaker Jose de Venecia has filed a version of the National Land Use Code, and so did Rep. Nereus Acosta of Bukidnon and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon. These are welcome developments indeed. But without the full backing of the administration, it is unlikely that the measure will be passed.

Ms Macapagal should correct this major oversight in the Sona by including the National Land Use Code on her priority legislative agenda. Not doing so would be a tragedy in itself.—**LIA JASMIN M. ESQUILLO, policy advocacy officer, Kaisahan tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan at Repormang Pansakahan, 43 Masikap St., Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City**

An odd reaction to a tragedy

THIS refers to your Aug. 20 editorial in which you criticized Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta for asking military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus why he laughed at the time when he, along with her late brother, Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. and other then anti-Marcos activists were sentenced to death by a military tribunal at the height of martial law.

The senator felt that she had to ask the question because that scenario of her family holding back tears while Ninoy was being sentenced to death and Corpus oddly laughing when this tragic event was unfolding before them, left a lasting impression on her.

However, she believes that regardless of that memory, the mental fitness of Corpus should be evaluated in view of the very sensitive position he is holding in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Also, Corpus has made sweeping charges not only against a senator but also against other members of Congress, the judiciary and even the media.

What the senator finds very disturbing was Corpus' admission that he was predisposed to using constitutional and legal shortcuts, such as leaking his allegations to the media, because he knew that what he had against Sen. Ping Lacson wouldn't stand up in court. Oreta believes this kind of mind-set is scary, because this is what spawns the kind of adventurism that led to several military coup attempts in the past.—**TERESITA S. CASTILLO, chief of staff of Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Rm. 516, GSIS Bldg., Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City**

No proposal for integration

THIS a reaction to an Aug. 29, 2001 article written by Tonette Orejas titled, "Oldest vocational school in Asia facing oblivion." The article said the Don Honorio Ventura College of Arts and Trades (DHVCAT) in Bacolor, Pampanga would be consigned to oblivion once it is integrated with the Pampanga Agricultural College (PAC).

We at the PAC would like to correct any impression that the DHVCAT is going to be integrated with the PAC to form a state university. Official records prepared by the PAC which were submitted to both chambers of Congress, including endorsements by local and concerned sectors, proposed initially that the PAC be converted into the Pampanga State University, then the State Agricultural University of Pampanga, and more recently the Diosdado Macapagal State University. There has never been any mention of integration in the documents we submitted. Thus we appeal to the INQUIRER to set the record straight.—**ZOSIMO M. BATTAD, president, Pampanga Agricultural College**

Saudi donations in good condition

WE wish to call your attention to the news story about the Saudi Arabian government's donation of medical equipment to hospitals in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, published during the first week of August. The donations were described as "junk" in the story.

We would like to correct that information. The truth is, the equipment were usable and were mostly in good condition. We felt that the news story was unbalanced, painting an unpleasant picture of the donor which was uncalled for. The ARMM reiterates its profound gratitude and sincerest appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its humanitarian act of helping improve health service delivery in the region.

The donations were made possible through the efforts of Gov. Nur Misuari who personally visited the Guardian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Crown Prince of the KSA.

We appreciate your publication of this rejoinder if only to put on record that the donated equipment are usable and that the people of the ARMM are eternally grateful to the government of the KSA for its assistance in modernizing our hospitals so that we can in turn deliver quality health services to the constituents of the ARMM. We hope that such generosity shown by the KSA would be appreciated more lest we be considered an ungrateful people, which we are not.—**JAINAL M. HAMAD, M.D., regional secretary of health, Department of Health-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Cotabato City**

Powers of BID chief need to be clipped

AS Filipinos, it is not easy to hold up our heads these days. Our government officials appear determined to make us the laughingstock of the world.

Take the recent case where 104 aliens held at the Immigration Detention Center at Bicutan for various offenses staged a hunger strike. Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo had an immediate answer. She grabbed seven of the suspected ringleaders and moved them to different jails.

Well, that solved the problem nicely. That will tell all foreigners here as well as those who are planning to come here not to mess with our immigration commissioner.

The thing is, the problem just wouldn't go away. There must be a very good reason why these aliens, instead of rioting to relieve frustration, went on a peaceful hunger strike. If Domingo were genuinely interested in looking into the allegations of extortions and maltreatment, she would have proposed the creation of an investigating committee composed of independent persons. But since a great deal of the foreigners' frustration stemmed from the slow pace at which her own bureau deals with cases, perhaps she didn't want anyone to notice her own inefficiency.

The fact is that some aliens are being arrested without warrant, and they can languish in detention for years without being given the opportunity to defend themselves. This is the way of a dictatorship, not a democracy.

Our Constitution guarantees to foreigners the same right to due process as Filipinos. No Filipino can be arrested and jailed without an order from a judge. Aliens can be jailed without a court order, since the Supreme Court has ruled that the bureau has this power under the Immigration Act of 1946.

Domingo has more power than any official of the land. Not even the President can order the arrest of anyone without first obtaining a warrant. Those arrested have then to be arraigned in court within a set period of time. They are entitled to a fair hearing before they are given prison terms.

Domingo does not have to justify the jailing of any foreigner. All she has to do is declare him "undesirable."

This situation calls for a congressional investigation so that Congress can pass a new legislation and amend the Immigration Act so that the immigration commissioner cannot violate with impunity the United Nations Convention on Human Rights to which the Philippines is a signatory.—**ANTONIO S. CRUZ, L.V. Locsin Bldg. cor. Makati and Ayala Avenues, Makati City**

Good reasons to abolish the Senate

THE SENATE of the Philippines should be abolished. If the Constitution is to be amended in part, this should be given priority. Let us go back to the situation at the onset of the Philippine Commonwealth government on Nov. 15, 1935 when the legislature, the National Assembly, consisted of a single chamber.

The present House of Representatives is a replica of the National Assembly of 1935. There was a speaker, a speaker pro tempore, a majority floor leader, minority officers, committees, chairpersons, etc.

The following are the advantages we can derive from the abolition of the Senate:

1. Delays in the passage of bills will be significantly minimized because only one chamber will do the job of legislation.

2. There will be less politicking.

3. Enormous sums of money will be saved with the elimination of senatorial elections as well as the salaries, allowances and pork barrel of senators, the salaries and allowances for Senate personnel, office equipment, vehicles and their maintenance and operation, rental of the Senate building, etc.

4. The lack of proper representation of the electorate in the Senate will be a thing of the past.

5. Horse-trading for 1001 reasons that feature meetings of the bicameral conference will also be a thing of the past.

Frankly, the Senate is a useless appendage of the legislature. It must be excised like the appendix.—**APOLONIO G. RAMOS, 42 Mindanao St., Marikina City**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Ill UK woman petitions court for right to die

LONDON—A British woman totally paralyzed by a degenerating nervous disease was due to argue in the High Court Friday that she has the right to die with the help of her husband.

In a landmark case, Motor Neuron Disease sufferer Diane Pretty is challenging the government over a ruling that her husband would not be exempt from criminal prosecution if he helps her to take her own life.

Pretty, 42, is being backed by the civil rights organizations Liberty and The Voluntary Euthanasia Society.

A mother of two from Befordshire, southern England, Pretty says her condition has impaired her quality of life so badly she wants to be able to choose to die.

However, her condition has deteriorated so quickly that she can barely do anything for herself—and needs the help of her husband to end her life.

The director of public prosecutions, David Calvert-Smith, has said he could not guarantee Pretty's husband Brian would not face criminal prosecution for aiding and abetting a suicide if he helped her to die. *AFP*

US jets hit Iraqi radar

WASHINGTON—US fighter jets attacked an Iraqi radar site at Basra airport, officials said.

It was the third bombing of military targets in southern Iraq in the past week.

Officials said Thursday the Basra airport radar was not active at the time of the attack but had been used in the past to coordinate Iraqi air defense targeting of US and British aircraft in southern Iraq.

In a brief statement announcing the attack, the US Central Command said only that "coalition" aircraft used precision-guided weapons to strike the radar Thursday and that the damage was being assessed. It also said the attack was "in response to recent Iraqi hostile threats."

The Central Command is responsible for US military operations in the Persian Gulf area.

A Pentagon official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said four US Air Force F-16 fighter jets attacked the radar site. Another official, also requesting anonymity, said the radar was a significant target because it had enough range to "see" all of Kuwait's airspace.

The radar was located at Basra's airport, which the Pentagon official said serves both civilian and military aircraft. He said the radar was located a sufficient distance from civilian airport facilities to ensure that civilians were not hit.

The second Pentagon official said that to further reduce the possibility of civilian damage, the F-16s dropped 225-kg laser-guided bombs rather than larger bombs normally used against such targets.

Thursday's attack was planned in advance, the Pentagon official said.

Last Saturday, US and British warplanes attacked a mobile radar in southern Iraq, and on Tuesday they hit an Iraqi aircraft command and control facility.

On Monday, the Air Force lost a Predator unmanned reconnaissance plane near Basra. The Iraqis claimed they shot it down; the Pentagon said it was unsure whether it had been hit by hostile fire or had crashed on its own. Whatever the case, it was the first US or British airplane to be lost over Iraq since "no fly" zone patrols began.

US and British aircraft regularly patrol southern and northern Iraq to prevent Iraqi forces from attacking Kurds in the north and Shiites in the south and to provide early warning of Iraqi troop movements toward Kuwait.

According to the Pentagon's count, Iraq has "provoked" allied planes in the south—defined as incidents in which it has fired on planes, used radar against them or sent fighters into the "no fly" zone—390 times this year. That compares with 221 "provocations" in all of 2000. Allied planes have struck at Iraqi air defense targets 23 times in the south so far this year, compared with 32 times last year. *AP*

US Report: 'Code Red' worm born in China

WASHINGTON—The "Code Red" computer worm, which caused $2.4 billion in estimated cleanup costs on Internet-linked computers last month, seems to have been born at a university in China's southern Guangdong province, according to the nonpartisan investigative arm of the US Congress.

"The worm is believed to have started at a university in Guangdong, China," Keith Rhodes, chief technologist at the General Accounting Office, said in written testimony on Wednesday before a House Government Reform subcommittee.

The testimony, delivered at a field hearing in Monterey, California, did not elaborate on the virus' alleged Chinese origin. Rhodes and his associates did not return calls seeking details.

9 hours

Code Red infected more than 250,000 systems in just nine hours on July 19, shortly after it was first reported, according to the National Infrastructure Protection Center at FBI headquarters.

Reports in the Indian press earlier this month said the Code Red virus had been traced to the University of Foshon in Guangdong province.

Following the reports, Reuters contacted a laboratory technician at the University of Foshon's computer department who said he was surprised to learn of reports fingering the school because classes had been out since July 6 and the premises were being refurbished.

"All the students are on vacation and we're under construction. Even the electricity is down," the technician, who gave his last name as Hu, said in the Aug. 7 telephone interview.

Probe

Asked about the congressional report, Navy Capt. Robert West of the Joint Task Force for Network Operations, responsible for defending the US military's information infrastructure, said the Defense Department was "not ready to attribute the Code Red worm to any specific actor at this point" while efforts to pinpoint the origin continued.

A spokesperson for the FBI-led infrastructure protection center, Debbie Weireman, said the Code Red worm and successors known as Code Red II and SirCam were still under investigation.

Zhang Yuanyuan, a Chinese Embassy spokesperson, said he had no information about the origin of the malicious computer code. *Reuters*

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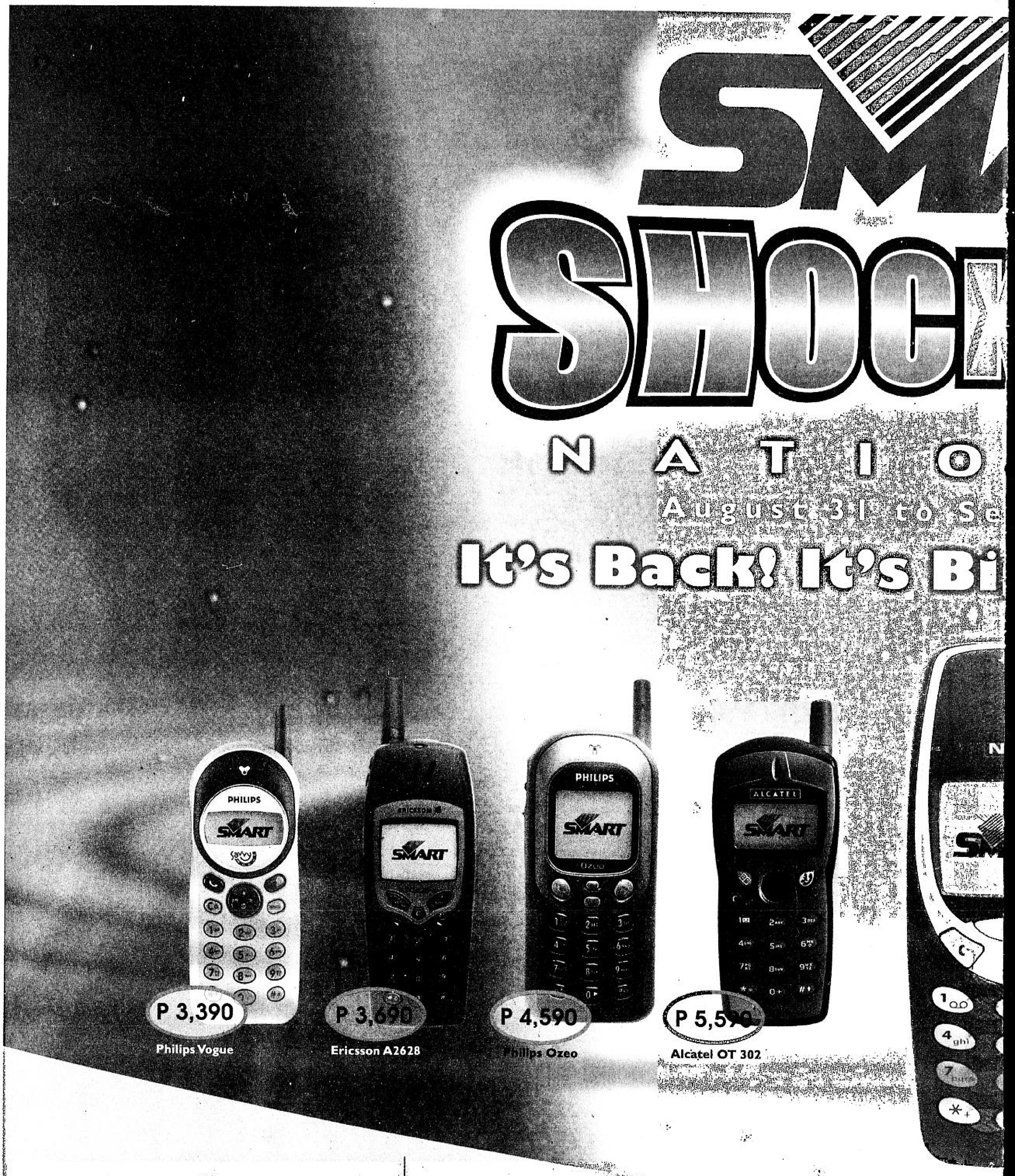

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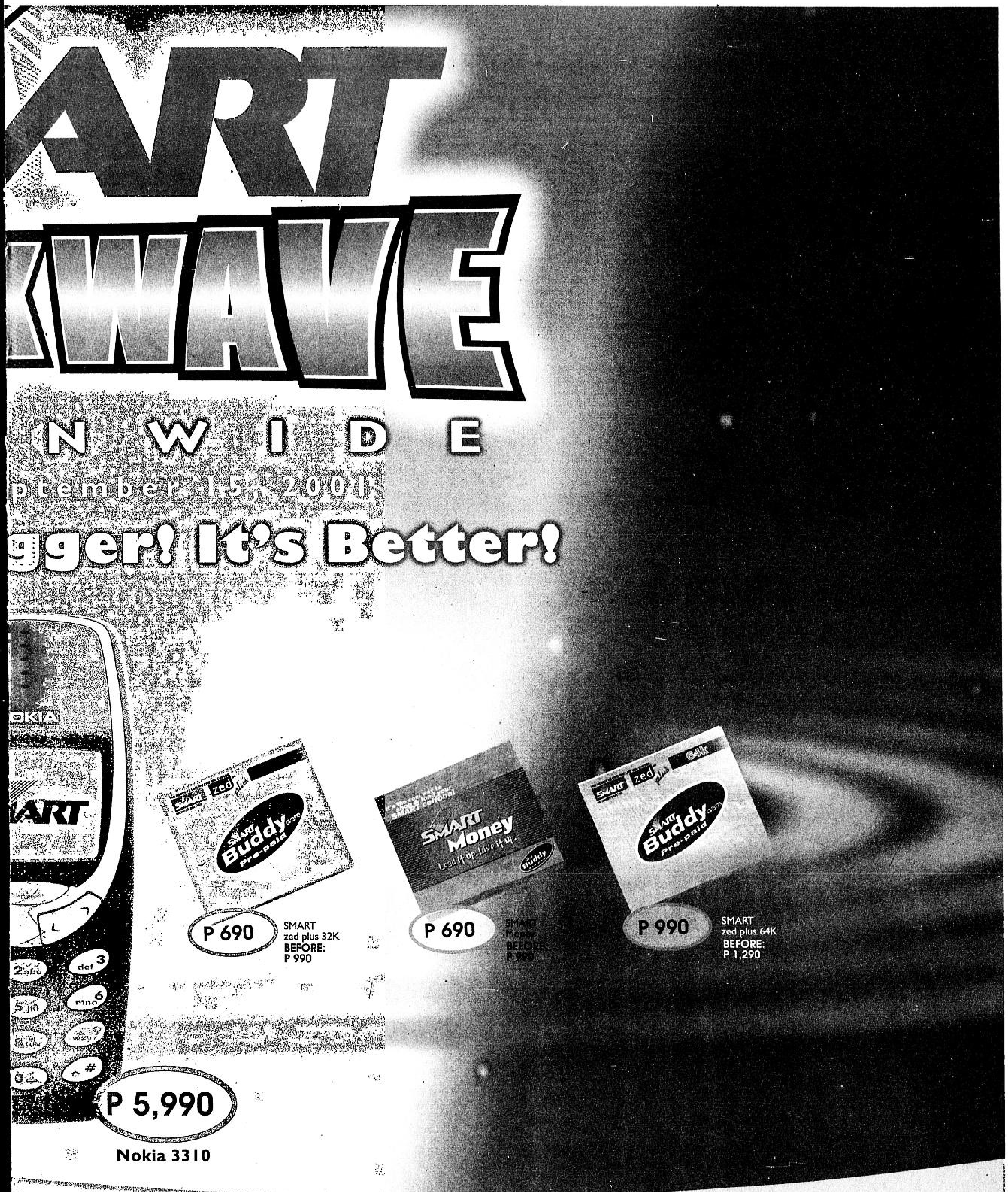
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Australia's tiny neighbors offer safe haven to end refugee crisis

CHRISTMAS ISLAND, Australia—Australia yesterday appeared to be easing toward a face-saving solution to its crisis over a shipload of stranded boatpeople after offers of help from its neighbors New Zealand and East Timor.

The two countries indicated they would consider offering safe haven to the 460 asylum seekers aboard the Norwegian-flagged Tampa as it drifts off this Australian territory in the Indian Ocean.

Prime Minister John Howard, bolstered by massive domestic support, continued to defy ever-growing global outrage over his refusal to allow the ship to bring its cargo of human despair into Australia.

Canberra also appealed for assistance to the other countries, including New Zealand, and asked the United Nations, which administers East Timor, if it would accommodate the boatpeople while their asylum claims are processed if Australia paid the costs.

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark responded yesterday saying Wellington would like to be part of the solution.

"We have a relatively small refugee quota a year because we don't have a big population, but we're prepared to look, and I hope others are prepared to look," she said.

East Timor's Foreign Minister Jose Ramos Horta said his country, now in the middle of its first election, would certainly look "favorably" on the Australian proposal.

East Timor has large facilities built to house returning refugees who fled the territory during a violent rampage by pro-Indonesian militias after it voted for independence in 1999.

Ramos Horta said while Indonesia and Australia had primary responsibility for the asylum-seekers, "at the same time we want to be true to our own history."

The Nobel laureate said his own people had "benefited enormously from international generosity" during their recent bloody history and thousands of its refugees had been "welcomed, sheltered and fed particularly by Australia and Portugal."

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer later appeared to back away from an East Timor solution saying: "We are having discussions with a number of countries. It's much less likely to be East Timor than somewhere else."

He said discussion were progressing well now with Norway after some initial difficulties and he expected further talks with both Norway and Indonesia late yesterday.

Canberra has insisted the boatpeople should be returned to Indonesia, where they started their ill-fated journey.

They were picked up by the Norwegian boat when their Indonesian vessel began to sink. The refugees then forced the ship's skipper to head for Australian waters.

Indonesia, which says that it has enough trouble coping with 1.3 million of its own people who have been made homeless by sectarian or separatist conflicts, reiterated that it regarded the refugees as Australia's problem.

"We urge Australia for humanitarian reasons to accept the refugees," Defense Minister Matori Abdul Jalil said. *AFP*

FASTER , NOT SMALLER REUTERS

A Thai pharmacist uses a 5.5-meter long (18-foot-long) abacus in the town of Rayong in Thailand, Aug 30. The owner, who made the device four years ago to calculate drug bills faster than a calculator, believes it's the world's largest abacus.

Israel mounts 'assassination' bid on militant

JERUSALEM—A Palestinian militant leader escaped an apparent Israeli assassination bid in the West Bank early yesterday, with overall tensions further fueled by another Israeli Army incursion in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli troops fired missiles at the home of Qais Abdel Karim, the head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) for the West Bank, a DFLP spokesperson in Gaza City said.

But Abdel Karim, better known by his nom de guerre of Abu Leila, was not in the house in Ramallah in the West Bank.

The spokesperson called the attack, which has not been confirmed by Israel, a "new assassination attempt" under Israel's policy of "liquidating" militants it blames for killing its citizens.

Abu Leila is the number of the Damascus-based DFLP, which claimed a raid on an Army outpost in the Gaza Strip last Saturday that left two Israeli soldiers and a medic dead, as well as two Palestinian attackers.

"This new aggression by (Israeli Prime Minister Ariel) Sharon . . . won't stop us," he said, vowing to "retaliate by escalating the intifada."

At almost the same time as the missile attack, Israel sent tanks and bulldozers into Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, in one of two incursions. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Anti-racism meet starts

DURBAN, South Africa—To the beat of Zulu drums, the United Nations opens a conference against racism yesterday, but organizers' hopes that it will prove a landmark could be dashed by rows over Israel and slavery. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan is due to open the eight-day gathering together with South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki, whose "rainbow nation" is held up as an example to follow after its overthrow of apartheid. Some 6,000 delegates from 150 countries will seek to hammer out a declaration of principles and a plan of action to tackle racism and protect the rights of ethnic minorities. *Reuters*

US murder suspect falls

SOLTYS

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Police captured fugitive Ukrainian immigrant Nikolay Soltys cowering under a desk in his mother's backyard Thursday, ending a 10-day hunt for a man who allegedly stabbed six relatives to death—including his own pregnant wife and three-year-old son. Police, who had asked authorities as far away as New York and North Carolina to be on alert for the fugitive, arrested him just a few kilometers from where the bloody murders took place on Aug. 20. The arrest capped more than a week of extensive police work in and around Sacramento as authorities hunted for the 27-year-old former shoemaker, who had been placed on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List and had a price of $120,000 on his head. *Reuters*

E. Timor polls tranquil

DILI, East Timor—Vote counting was under way in East Timor Friday, a day after more than 90 percent of voters flocked to polling stations for their first free elections. Turnout was generally high throughout East Timor, said the United Nations' chief electoral officer, Carlos Valenzuela. Almost 318,000 people voted in the 12 districts outside Dili. The number of voters in the capital has yet to be tallied. Polling was tranquil with only minor incidents involving crowds agitated by slow identification procedures, he said. Two complaints were received, one against a polling officer and another alleging irregularities. *AFP*

Kashmiri women terrified

SRINAGAR, India—Panic gripped Muslim women in Indian-administered Kashmir as a deadline set by a militant group to adopt strict Islamic dress or face punishment was due to run out yesterday evening. Fears were running high that a previously unknown group, Lashkar-e-Jabbar, would carry out acid attacks on women who it believes are "immodestly dressed." On Aug. 9 the group threw corrosives on two women in Srinagar, the Kashmiri summer capital, and later said all women must wear the head-to-toe Islamic veil in public from Sept. 1. Kashmir's leading female separatist group, Dukhtaran-e-Milat (Daughters of Faith), has supported the dress code, adding to the tension and sparking panic buying of veils and long black cloaks. *AFP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Slay plot on Bongbong, Chavit bared

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—A former member of the New People's Army operating in Isabela on Friday revealed plans by the communist group to assassinate Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and Laoag Mayor Roger Fariñas.

Daniel de la Cruz, also known as Ka Marco and Ka Bogart, claimed that the supposed liquidation order against the three officials was issued in March this year.

De la Cruz, who was former assistant unit commander of the Sparrow Unit of the NPA operating in Isabela, went to Laoag from Cagayan in July together with a certain Ka Manny, the group's supposed unit commander.

Ka Manny's unit reportedly operates in Isabela, Cagayan, Kalinga, Apayao and parts of Southern Tagalog.

The two were supposed to meet three other guerrillas who had been sent to this city as early as 1998 to monitor the officials' activities in July.

De la Cruz said it was his first trip to this city while Ka Manny had been allegedly in and out of the province in the past.

He had known Ka Manny since 1998 after he was assigned to the Sparrow group. He said he was formerly assigned to the command's guerrilla combat unit.

"Our mission was to kill the three officials because of their alleged link to corruption and jueteng lords," De la Cruz told the INQUIRER.

He said he knew nothing else about the details of the plot. The mission was supposed to have been ordered by higher NPA officials.

In Ilocos Sur, Singson dismissed the alleged plot by the NPA to kill him and the other officials.

"*Diak pattien* (I do not believe it)," Singson told the INQUIRER by telephone.

"It's the group of Erap (former President Joseph Estrada) and (former Sen. Panfilo) Lacson who are behind the plots to kill me," he said.

Singson said Estrada, Lacson and their group had been after him since he exposed Estrada's alleged links to illegal gambling in October last year.

De la Cruz said Ka Manny asked him to wait at a bus terminal here while the latter went to a safehouse to look for their companions.

"It was when I was waiting at the bus terminal that I decided to surrender to the government," De la Cruz told the INQUIRER.

He then boarded a tricycle and asked the driver to take him to the Department of Social Welfare and Development office here. The DSWD then turned him over to the police.

While under police custody, De la Cruz was supposed to have been interrogated and was later asked to act as an errand boy.

The Laoag PNP presented De la Cruz to Marcos during a meeting last month.

It was during the meeting with the governor that the former rebel revealed the liquidation plot against him. ***With a report from Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern sections of Luzon and Eastern Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: **PAGASA**

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 22°
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 26°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/08/31/01

ROUNDUP

Marijuana uprooted

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Army soldiers and policemen uprooted and burned 2,000 fully-grown marijuana plants in a plantation in Tinglayan, Kalinga, last week. Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, commander of the Army's 5th Infantry Division, said the operation was conducted under Oplan Green Gold. Reports said soldiers and policemen discovered the plantation in Mt. Chumanchil in Tinglayan.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Request vs tree-cutting

BAGUIO CITY—A councilor here is asking the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to order developers of Camp John Hay to stop tree-cutting inside the former American facility. Councilor Braulio Yaranon said his request was prompted by reports that trees had been cut and taken out of John Hay's Voice of America compound. Representatives of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, John Hay Poro Point Development Corp. (CJHDevCo), Penta Capital-CJHDevCo consortium and the DENR have denied the tree-cutting activities in the camp. ***Sandra Go and Michelle Angeli Mendoza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Amok kills passersby

SIPOCOT, Camarines Sur—A man believed to be mentally ill ran amuck on Tuesday, killing a passerby and seriously hurting another with a bolo in Barangay Taisan here. Police identified the fatality as Darwin Talagtag, 22, of Barangay Malobago, Libon, Albay who was pronounced dead on arrival at the Sipocot District Hospital. Recuperating in the same hospital is Roberto Albea, 41, of Barangay Impig here. Policemen and bystanders subdued and disarmed Roberto Avengoza, 22, after a brief chase and brought him to a mental hospital in Pili, Camarines Sur. Witnesses told police that Avengoza had been suspected of suffering from mental illness due to drug use.

Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cobra bite kills baby

SOCORRO, Oriental Mindoro—A four-month-old baby boy died on Saturday minutes after he was bitten by a meter long Philippine cobra in Barangay Subaan here. Barangay officials who reported the incident said the baby, identified as Jess Vito, was in bed inside one of the rooms of the Vito house when the cobra attacked and bit him in the wrist. Responding neighbors killed the snake. The baby, however, died minutes after being bitten.

Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Italian faces deportation for 'wedding'

CEBU CITY—An Italian national is facing deportation proceedings after the Bureau of Immigration discovered that his "wife" was actually a man.

Sergio Forti, 55, has been detained at the BI office in Mandaue City since Wednesday when immigration agents arrested him at his beach resort in Moalboal town, some 89 kilometers southwest of here.

He will be brought to the immigration office in Manila where he will undergo deportation proceedings on charges that he used "void documents" in securing his residence visa.

Forti acquired his Immigrant Certificate of Residence on May 6, 1997 after marrying one Lisa Cui in a civil wedding on Dec. 29, 1992.

The Philippine Immigration Act provides that a foreigner can acquire his residence visa once he or she marries a Filipino.

Supt. Diego Hipolito, technical assistant of the Bureau of Immigration-Cebu, said the marriage contract is considered void because "he did not marry a woman but a man."

Forti's "wife," Lisa Cui is actually Ralph Cui, a gay who had undergone sex-change operation, he said.

He also pointed out that the marriage contract had no supporting documents such as Cui's birth certificate and marriage license.

Hipolito said marriage license number 9508866, as indicated in the marriage contract, could not be found at the Civil Registrar of Tabogon.

"When you see him, you cannot mistake (Cui) for a woman because he really looks like a man. He even has big arms and legs," Hipolito said in Filipino.

He told the INQUIRER that it was probable that the BI personnel, who issued Forti's residence visa, did not require the Italian to present his wife.

The spurious union was uncovered when the BI conducted neighborhood check on foreigners who are engaged in business in Cebu.

Forti's neighbors in Moalboal reportedly tipped immigration agents that the Italian's wife was actually a man, prompting the BI to conduct an investigation. *Connie Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Dengue claims 4 more lives in CL

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Dengue has claimed four more lives in Central Luzon, the Department of Health regional office here said Friday.

Dr. Jessie Fantone, regional epidemiologist, said the latest dengue fatalities include a 5-year-old girl from San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan and three others from Pampanga.

The number of dengue-related deaths in the region rose from 14 to 18 as of Aug. 25.

Dr. Eric Tayag, assistant health regional director here, said the number of dengue cases in Central Luzon also rose from 3,092 to 3,423 on Aug. 25. Most victims, he said, came from Nueva Ecija, which has 1,461 cases.

Bulacan has 735 cases, Tarlac 376, Pampanga 352, Zambales 301, and Bataan 218.

Of the 18 fatalities, seven came from this province, five from Nueva Ecija, three from Tarlac and two from Bulacan.

Tayag has alerted all the big hospitals in the region to be extra attentive to dengue victims.

He cautioned Central Luzon residents against the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the dengue-causing insect.

"People should take time to clean their surroundings, especially by emptying water from bottles, flower vases, old tires and other things that can be used as mosquito breeding grounds," he said.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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Talks with NDF back soon, says gov't negotiator

NAGA CITY—Peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front will resume in the third or fourth week of September, Secretary Silvestre Bello III, chair of the government panel, said here yesterday.

The peace talks have been on recess since mid-June, after the killing of Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo on June 12, to allow the government to consult people on issues that are to be taken up with the NDF, Bello said.

Bello was here for the Bicol leg of his group's public consultations.

But Bello said that even as the government and the NDF are ready to resume negotiations this month, other factors have to be considered.

"For one, Norway, the host country, will be having their elections," Bello said.

He clarified that the ambush-slaying of Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo was never an issue in the stalled peace negotiations.

He said backdoor negotiations have been ongoing even after the talks stalled.

He explained that the government did not see the Aguinaldo killing as an issue. It was the congratulatory message sent by NDF panel chair Luis Jalandoni to the New People's Army for the killing of Aguinaldo that became an issue in the talks.

He said the government panel had expected that the NDF would issue no statement that would destroy the trust of either panel in the talks.

"If anything like that (killings) happen, we will consider it part of the danger of armed conflict as long as there would be no congratulatory messages," said Bello.

He said a time frame of six months to finish each item in the talks' agenda was set to pressure the two panels to work harder and faster on the substantive issues.

He finds the six-month time frame on each item on the agenda unrealistic but insisted on the time frame in order to accelerate the process.

Bello said the two panels have resolved that the implementation of the agreements would be done after all the substantive items in the agenda have been hammered out.

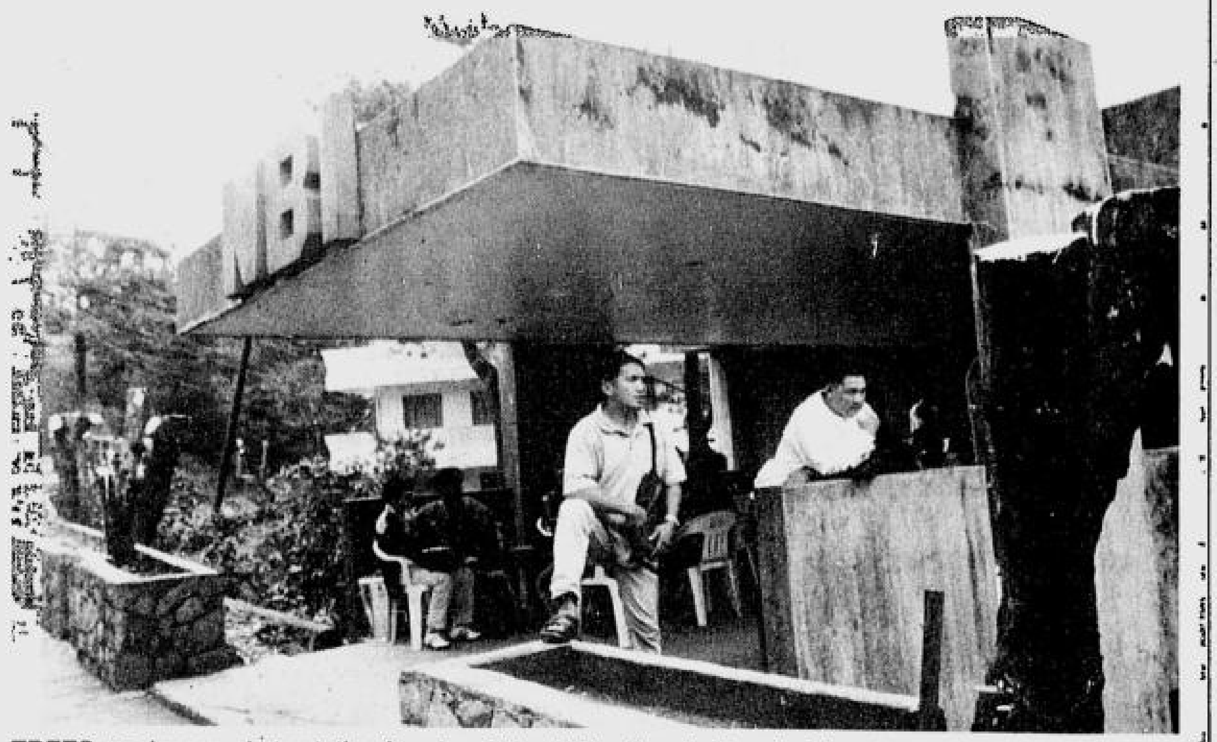
However, he said the provisions of the agreements that have been approved by both panels can be implemented unilaterally, especially those that do not need approval from other authorities.

Bello said the political authority tasked to implement the agreements would be determined during the negotiations of the political and constitutional reform part of the agenda.

The government and the NDF panels have to negotiate three more substantive items: political and constitutional issues, economic reform and cessation of hostilities and disposition of forces.

The first agreement approved by both panels as a result of the peace negotiations during the administration of former President Fidel Ramos is the Comprehensive Agreement for the Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, which was signed by deposed President Joseph Estrada. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Trees 'pruned' to 'beautify' NBI office



TREES no longer obstruct the façade of the NBI office in Baguio City after they were "pruned" to "beautify" the office's front view.

EV ESPIRITU

BAGUIO CITY—Can someone tell foresters here what pruning or even beauty mean?

When newly installed National Bureau of Investigation Cordillera Director Rickson Chiong ordered the cutting of 18 alnus and five bottlebrush trees into one-meter stumps at the NBI compound here, the investigating environment officials said this was only "pruning."

Leo Manodon, park and wildlife warden, and Joseph Foy-awen, forest ranger, both of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office here, said the 10-year-old trees were merely "pruned" even if no leaves were left in the trees.

Chiong ordered the "pruning" of the trees in front of the NBI compound on Upper Session Road here without any cutting permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Manodon and Foy-awen said the 23 trees, ranging from 5 to 15 centimeters in diameter, "were pruned upon the order of the NBI management by an unknown contract worker."

Pruning, according to Evangeline Martinez, senior researcher of the DENR's Forestry Research Institute, is the trimming of the upper canopy of leaves to let the sunshine in on the lower leaves.

"Cutting the trees into stumps is definitely not pruning," she said.

Manodon and Foy-awen said their inquiry with Chiong disclosed that it was not his intention to cut the trees but to "make the area beautiful."

They said the trees, which were planted by Chiong's predecessors 10 years ago, were damaged by Typhoon Feria last month.

Martinez said alnus trees may still grow if cut into one-meter stumps.

But the NBI painted the stumps and this may hinder the growth of the trees.

Chiong said the trees caused cracks on the pavement and were hovering over electric lines.

The DENR asked Chiong to at least write to them before he ordered the pruning, trimming and cutting of the trees. ***Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Drive against illegal logging stepped up

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) of Sarangani has stepped up its campaign against illegal logging in the province.

The Penro recovered some 3,000 board feet of illegally-cut *yakal* and *lawaan* lumber in Barangay Tuyan in Malapatan town.

The pieces of lumber were reportedly abandoned in the area.

Penro chief Mike Andang told reporters that the wood products are now under the custody of Penro.

Andang said he already requested the military officials in the area to help in their campaign against illegal logging and not to allow the transport of illegal logs.

Penro sources also said they found around 3,000 board feet of illegal pieces of lumber ready for transport from the far-flung village of Kibo, also in Malapatan.

Penro was planning to confiscate the illegally cut wood, but the military reportedly warned them that the place was a rebel-infested area.

"We will just wait until the (wood is) transported down the poblacion, We can't take the risk of going there, as it is a rebel-infested area," Andang said. ***Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Dads endorse graft rap vs Tacloban execs

By Vicente Labro and Cynthia Borgueta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The city council has endorsed to the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas documents that purportedly show irregularities allegedly committed by Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez and five other city officials.

Councilor Arvin Antoni, chair of the council's committee on ethics and blue ribbon, said these documents were the same papers submitted to the city council by a concerned taxpayer who complained of alleged wrongdoings committed by some city officials close to the city mayor.

Aside from Romualdez, the other city officials implicated in the alleged irregularities were Fionelio Mantilla, former city administrator and now the mayor's personal secretary; Ofelia Oliva, Internal Audit Service Unit chief; Marlissa Santos of the mayor's office; Crescencio Gonzales of the city General Services Office and Edgardo Cadavis of the office of the Licensing Division.

"It is now up to the Ombudsman to determine whether there is substantial evidence against them (city officials)," he said.

In his letter to the anti-graft office, Antoni asked the Ombudsman-Visayas to conduct an investigation and to file appropriate criminal and administrative charges against the city officials if the pieces of evidence warrant.

He forwarded to the Ombudsman-Visayas, which is based in Cebu City, the findings of his committee that looked into the alleged 60-40 sharing of some city officials and contractors.

Also submitted to the anti-graft office was the committee's finding on the allegation that Romualdez brought home some government-owned pieces of property including computers and a water dispenser.

Antoni's committee earlier conducted an investigation, using the anonymous letter as basis.

In an interview, Antoni declined to divulge the results of the investigation. But he claimed that these were substantiated with sworn statements given by Amador Bacula, Mark Anthony Uayan and Engr. Mario Magellan Tezon, all of the City Engineering's Office.

The INQUIRER tried to get the reaction of Mayor Romualdez but he declined to be interviewed.

But Vicente Solis, City Planning Division Head, laughed off the city council's move to endorse the documents to the anti-graft office.

"I doubt if the Office of the Ombudsman-Visayas will entertain the endorsement . . . if they will give credence to the documents sent by the City Council, considering that the letter was unsigned," Solis told the INQUIRER.

He said the allegations raised in the anonymous letter were without basis.

For instance, Solis said it was unlikely for Romualdez to bring home pieces of office equipment when the mayor already has these.

Vice Mayor Edwin Chua said the transmittal of documents should not be interpreted that they were instituting a criminal case against Romualdez and the city officials.

"We are just transmitting these documents and it is up to them (Ombudsman) to investigate. These (documents) were just the findings of the committee," Chua said.

Mystery shipment prompts watch of Isabela villages

ILAGAN, Isabela—Police officials in the province have ordered a tight watch of villages in four coastal towns of Isabela following reports that several steel drums and firearms were dropped in the sea off Dinapigue town last week and on July 29.

Senior Supt. James Andres Melad, Isabela police director, said he ordered police to monitor the towns of Dinapigue, Maconacon, Divilacan and Isabela, whose coastlines are facing the Pacific Ocean.

Melad said residents in the areas had told police that at least seven steel drums were dropped from a C-130 cargo plane in two areas in Dinapigue Bay in Barangay Digumased, Dinapigue town last week.

He said their intelligence reports described the plane as "camouflage-colored" and had a "big red star mark" on its side.

He said the drums were picked up by men aboard two motorboats. The boats fled toward the Pacific Ocean.

Supt. Manuel de los Reyes, deputy provincial police director, said they suspected that the drum's contents might be chemicals used in the manufacture of shabu.

Melad also cited a separate intelligence report showing that on July 29, several residents saw a group of men transporting high-powered firearms in Dinapigue town.

The residents, according to the report, saw four M-14 Armalite rifles, two M-16 rifles, a shotgun and a box of grenade being transported by the group.

The intelligence reports said the firearms could be intended for delivery to nearby Aurora or Quezon provinces. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

A dream school for epic chanter

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
Calinog, Iloilo

NATIONAL artist Federico Caballero, a chanter of epic poetry and myths of indigenous peoples of Panay Island, finally fulfilled his dream of constructing a school for indigenous culture.

Caballero, 63, presided over the inauguration of the Balay Turun-an (House for Learning), a hut with cogon grass roof and slatted bamboo walls in the mountain village of Garangan, Calinog town, 59 kilometers from Iloilo City, last Aug. 24.

The Balay Turun-an is also known as the Central Panay School for Living Tradition of the Panay-Bukidnon, the indigenous people of Panay Island who are also called Tumandok-Bukidnon.

The school was built through donations from Caballero and his brothers and his cousins who, like him, are noted leaders of their communities. The site is owned by Caballero.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCAA) gave P200,000 for the honorariums of teachers and food for students who attend classes every Saturday.

Envisioned to accommodate 20 students, the school now has more than 50. It caters to children, aged 8-16, from indigenous communities in Calinog, Iloilo and in Tapaz, Capiz.

The children attend classes in government-run schools but they spend their Saturdays at the Balay Turun-an where they learn the rudiments of Panay-Bukidnon culture. The lessons are supervised by Caballero and other community leaders who are adept in chanting, rice-wine making, dancing and presiding over rituals of the community, among other skills.

The school will help preserve the dying customs and traditions of the Panay-Bukidnon who are affected by the onslaughts of mass media, religion and culture in the lowland areas that have made many younger members of the community ashamed of themselves and their indigenous ways.

On Aug. 25, the students had a chance to show what they've learned when the school was inaugurated.

National treasure

"I am happy that this project was finally realized. We can say that our indigenous culture will endure," said Caballero when he welcomed guests from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas and from the NCAA.

Caballero was awarded the Gawad Manlilikha ng Bayan by the NCAA in February. The award gives recognition to the "living human treasures" of the Philippines as a way of preserving the country's cultural traditions, especially those threatened by extinction.

The law mandates a recipient of the NCAA award to teach and pass on his or her skills to the younger members of the community.

Caballero is one of the few people who can speak Ligbok, an indigenous language that is no longer spoken in its pure form by younger members of the Panay-Bukidnon.

Folklorists and anthropologists fear that if Caballero and the other remaining fluent speakers of Ligbok die, the entire culture of the Panay-Bukidnons may disappear with them. This is because a language is tied with the unique culture, literature and worldview of a group of people.

Alicia Magos, a professor from the UP-Visayas and chair of the Center for West Visayas Studies, said Caballero helped retrieve and document the Tumandok-Bukidnon oral literature. He also helped translate the Tumandok epics, also collectively known as the "Sugidanon," in 1994.

The tradition of chanting epics is a part of the rituals of the Tumandok-Bukidnon. The epics are long narratives, the songs usually chanted during wedding rites to welcome friends and relatives.

Sugidanon comes in a highly poetic and mythic form. The French government funded the study to retrieve the epics, a project that linked Caballero and his people with social scientists in universities.

"He (Caballero) opened the minds of many other artists (writers, dancers, choreographers, directors and musicians), as well as advocates of culture, environmentalists, academicians and scholars in guarding and realizing the value of the epics for the country's heritage," said Magos.

Caballero helped preserve the local language by chanting 10 epics that he had learned from his late great-grandmother Omil, who was also a chanter. His mother Anggoran (later baptized Preciosa), also a chanter, likewise taught her seven sons, and one daughter to recite the epics.

By heart

At 12 years old, Caballero started to chant the epics that he learned by heart.

Magos said it was the eagerness of Caballero to learn the epics that he naturally developed the skill and excelled in it.

It takes at least 162 hours to recite an epic, which often talks about the exploits of mythical heroes and heroines. "Humadapnon," the longest of the epics, takes two months to be chanted in its entire length, even if sung every day.

Magos said that since many of the younger members of the Tumandok-Bukidnon no longer speak the indigenous tongue, their retelling has been far from being picturesque.

"While before a stanza has eight adjectives, now it has only three or four," she said.

Caballero came from a family of chanters and arbiters of disputes in Garangan near the Halawod River, one of the great river systems of Panay.

Known for his integrity, Caballero received the name "Tuohan" (respected one) from his tribe.

His brothers did not follow his path but are also adept dancers of the *binanog*, an indigenous dance imitating the movements of a hawk. One of them, Romulo, is a *mirko* (ritual leader) and *babaylan* (healer).

Numbering about 60,000, the Panay-Bukidnons are the largest indigenous inhabitants of Panay.

Scholars have established their authenticity as an indigenous people, living in the interior of the island long before Spain colonized the Philippines in the 16th century.

The Silliman spirit

(Continued from last week)

LUCID INTERVALS

Rowena V. Guanzon

ENGLISH, especially before the '70s, was the language in and out of the Silliman University, and little children would scream at each other in English. Later, the students developed their own "Bisaya-English," as in the famous, "I went there *baya*, but you were not there *man*, so I went *na lang*." You have to hear that in a singsong diction to appreciate it.

Paul Palmore remembers Silliman as his home, the place where he was born.

James and Miriam Palmore were American missionaries who came to Silliman to teach. Of all the Americans, they are the only ones who stayed, and both are still in Dumaguete City.'

Paul, who was in high school and college in the '50s and '60s, consider those years golden for Silliman. The quality of education was excellent, and the community was closely knit. As children, they felt safe to go anywhere because they knew that their community would protect them.

It was only during martial law when Paul, then a teacher, felt that their freedom in Silliman was curtailed. Soldiers were posted outside the classrooms and the university was fenced in by barbed wires.

It was in 1970-74 when I was in Silliman, and those were interesting and difficult times. Silliman was one of three schools that were closed by the dictator Ferdinand Marcos for months, together with the University of the Philippines.

But the barbed wires didn't stop us from going under them or going over them to sneak out at night for "teach-ins." Student activists proliferated, for Silliman was the hub of student leaders in the South then. We joined mass actions and helped at picketlines.

I remember the strike at the Azucarera de Bais, where we joined workers and women along the highway. I considered myself lucky that at an early age, my political consciousness was raised not only by my family but also by a good friend, Victoria Justiniani, aka "Kumander Ibyang."

Before I left Silliman at midnight, days after martial law was declared, Vic-Vic silkscreened a logo of a fist of the Makibaka, a militant women's group, on the pocket of my polo shirt.

Channon Hall, the high school girls' dorm in 1970-74, has produced women who have made contributions to social and political change. Among them were Dr. Junice Deterio-Melgar, who now heads an NGO for women's health and reproductive rights, Lina Polotan and Vic-Vic.

Vic-Vic, after her arrest in 1992 and the repeal of the Anti-Subversion Law, of which she was charged with violating (she was eventually acquitted of the charge), founded an NGO for the elderly. We never would have thought, as we picketed the Ms Silliman contest shouting "*Sagot sa kagutuman*, beauty contest!" that our Ms High School, Junice, would later work as a doctor of the people in Panay.

Late at night, we would hear baritone Elmo Makil practicing the piano. Other famous baritones who are Sillimanians are Gamaliel Viray, baritone bass; Emmanuel Gregorio; and Constantino Bernardez.

Gilopez Kabayao, a world-famous violinist who hails from Cadiz, is a Sillimanian.

On Sept. 22, leading soprano Rhoda Pepito sang "Usahay, Nakadamgo Ako"(Sometimes I Dream) in Silliman and the crowd cried.

In theater, we have Junix Inocian, who played the role of the engineer in Miss Saigon, and in literature, National Artist Edith Tiempo and her daughter Rowena Tiempo.

For revolutionaries, we have, among other people, Art Tabara, chair of the Partido ng Rebolusyonaryong Manggagawang Pilipino.

Silliman has shaped our character, our lives and our vision for ourselves and for others. We have the "Silliman spirit," a sense of community and kinship wherever we go. That "spirit" is largely due to the influence of the Church, which welcomed all, even the non-Protestants.

When I first met Liling Briones at UP and I said I was a Sillimanian, I immediately felt like being with a family member.

Silliman at 100 awaits you. She has educated us to have faith, believe in truth and justice, and the rest is up to us. If you cannot come, get a copy of the video. At least, join us in spirit.

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DOH HEALTH EVENTS
September (Whole month)
• Generics Awareness Month

54 firetraps listed, recommended for closure

(From page A1)

from complying with all the requirements, the hotel had monthly fire drills, an in-house fire fighting team, and even its own "fully equipped modern fire truck."

Cabrera said that a Department of Interior and Local Government task force has been created to "validate" the report, particularly to see whether these establishments "constitute clear and present danger to public safety."

According to the Aug. 22, 2001 memorandum, more than half of all buildings recommended for closure were located in southern Metro Manila: Las Piñas, Pasay, Parañaque and Muntinlupa.

The 11 hospitals were identified as the Philippine General Hospital, San Lazaro Hospital, Dr. Jose Fabella Hospital, Tondo Medical Center, Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital, Ospital ng Maynila, Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Ospital ng Tondo, Ospital ng Sampaloc, Cardinal Santos Memorial Medical Center and Polymedic Hospital. The first nine are all located in the city of Manila.

Aside from Hotel Inter-Continental, the hotels in the list were Traveller's Inn and City Garden Hotel in Makati City and House of the Living Rock Apartelle in Las Piñas City. The schools were identified as Holy Child Montessori in Navotas, an AMA Computer branch in Parañaque City, and Maranatha Christian Academy in Marikina City.

Earlier memo

At the hearing, Lina said that there had already been a recommendation as early as February 1999 addressed to the fire marshal and inspectors as well as Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay for the closure of 26 establishments, including the ill-fated Quezon City Manor Hotel.

But Alfredo Macapugay, who has been suspended as chief of the Quezon City building and city engineering office as a result of the Manor Hotel fire which claimed 75 lives, told senators he still needed to verify whether his office received the report or not.

Aside from Manor Hotel, the other establishments recommended for closure in 1999 were St. Luke's Medical Center, SM Centerpoint, East Avenue Medical Center, Diliman Preparatory School, Roosevelt Memorial High School, De Los Santos Medical Center, Quezon City General Hospital and the Social Security System and Bureau of Internal Revenue buildings.

St. Luke's has denied any violations of the Fire Code.

Lina later told reporters Congress should raise the usual charge of reckless imprudence, in such situations, to murder, as the "intent to kill is presumed when owners (of buildings) who get notices failed to introduce appropriate corrections especially after (getting) several notices."

Another BFP official testified that the Pandacan oil depot could cause "unimaginable" damage in the event of an accidental fire or a fire caused by "an act of terrorism."

In the worst-case scenario, Senior Supt. Rogelio Tumbaga said, a fire at the Pandacan oil depot would cause so much damage it will even spread to nearby Malacañang through the Pasig River. Tumbaga said the relocation of the oil depot should be considered urgently.

Other residential and business establishments were Parc House II, Goodwill building, Oppen building, Cityland III building, Erlag building, Carson building, Philgrim building, Ritz Towers, Urban Bank Plaza, Twin Cities Condo, 1st E-Bank Condo, ITC building, Emmanuel house Aguirre, Campos Rueda, National Development Co., MMDA building, and City Garden Hotel (all in Makati City); Prime Work Machine Shop, Sky Trek NAA, Red Flower Garments, Miss Show Girl, Crown Bay Tower, VM tower, Draco building, EDAR building, 8414 building (all in Parañaque City); Philcomcen building in Pasig City; Pateros municipal hall, Pateros Cockpit Arena; Security and Exchange Commission building, Citytrust building, POEA building, Wack Wack Condo Corp., Court Felicidad and Javan building, all in Mandaluyong City.

Caloocan buildings

Fire authorities yesterday recommended the closure of two decrepit buildings housing a vocational school and Caloocan City's regional trial courts because of numerous violations of the fire safety and building codes.

Chief Insp. Agapito Nacario, the city's fire chief, gave owners of Genato Investment Building and Aurelio Building until the end of September to meet fire safety measures.

"They committed all the mortal sins of building," he said. "They're almost condemned buildings. They need complete rehabilitation soon."

The 30-year-old Aurelio Building on Rizal Avenue Extension near 9th Avenue houses the offices of the city prosecutor and the clerk of court, and RTC branches 120, 121, 122,123, 127, and 130. Also located in the building owned by Lina Aurelio are the Manila Montessori College and the extension of the Caloocan city hall.

SEC compliance

SEC building administrator Ceferino Fabian Jr. stressed that his building has complied with all fire-safety requirements, except for the installation of fire sprinklers.

Fabian pointed out that the SEC building was 20 years old and had not been designed with any fire sprinklers. "In this regard, we wrote the Mandaluyong fire department two weeks ago asking for an exemption to the requirement," he said.

"As of this date, we have not received any letter or building closure order. The SEC building has fire fighting equipment. It has fire hose cabinets, smoke detectors, emergency lights and 67 fire extinguishers. The only thing we don't have are fire sprinklers," he said. He also said Mandaluyong fire department Supt. Reynaldo Medino has denied recommending the closure of the SEC building.

Public hospitals

Officials of government hospitals admitted several violations of the Fire Code, but hastened to add that these problems are being corrected.

The Philippine General Hospital, for instance, is reportedly in the process of correcting the deficiencies in its fire escape and fire alarm systems. Its emergency medical systems division is also conducting fire drills that adapt to what the PGH lacks in fire escape and alarm systems.

"Closing down the hospital is not feasible, at this time. If they close down, where would the public go for affordable yet quality service," said Dr. Teodoro Herbosa, head of the hospital's emergency medical systems.

He said four fires have already hit the hospital this year alone but its evacuation strategy has saved people, especially the patients, from injury and death.

"We have been informed of these fire code violations and we are in the process of addressing these. We are constantly coordinating with the Bureau of Fire Protection in correcting these deficiencies and in conducting our fire drill," Herbosa told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Dr. Arturo Cabanban of the San Lazaro Hospital said he believes his hospital's fire safety deficiencies are minor defects.

"Our fire protection system is essentially in place and if there are any defects, they are only minor ones. They are also being corrected right now," Cabanban told the INQUIRER.

Cardinal, Polymedic

Administrators of the Cardinal Santos Memorial Medical Center in San Juan and the Dr. Victor Potenciano Medical Center (formerly Polymedic) denied their respective hospitals had failed to comply with fire safety requirements.

DVPMC building administrator Reynaldo Mercado said that hospital officials were not aware of any fire-safety requirement the hospital was not able to meet.

But he assured the public that the DVPMC was equipped with fire extinguishers and a working fire alarm system, as well as unobstructed fire exits and directional signs.

Ryan Ty of the Cardinal Santos Memorial Medical Center said the hospital could not possibly be a fire hazard.

"In fact, the fire department of San Juan was here just the other day to conduct an inspection. We also hold regular fire drills," Ty said.

In Pateros, Mayor Rosendo Capco said the town's municipal hall had built-in precautions for fires.

"I have looked around and I see the fire exits and fire extinguishers around. This is a very modern building," Capco boasted.

However, when it comes to the "technical aspects" of the safety level of the building, he said he will have to consult with the City Engineer's Office for an expert assessment.

Capco also said he would immediately undertake a closer study of the building's precautions against fires.

"I will order an immediate study to see what we are lacking in terms of safety precautions against fires," Capco told the INQUIRER. ***With reports from Christian Esguerra, Elena Torrijos, Norman Bordadora, Agnes Donato and Alcuin Papa***

TWO women who rose to power, thanks to People Power I and II, attend the episcopal ordination of Msgr. Socrates Villegas, the man synonymous with the Edsa Shrine.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Study discovers secrets of youth

(From page A1)

to a study published Thursday.

Researchers from the Imperial College School of Medicine in London recruited 447 local civil servants and put each volunteer before a panel of two nurses and a doctor, who were asked to guess the person's age.

A battery of tests was then carried out to see how this guess compared with the volunteer's physical state.

Each recruit was measured for the degree of baldness, gray hair, skin elasticity, blood cholesterol and immune response, and the presence of arcus senilis, the opaque ring around the iris that occurs among older people.

The age-guessers turned out to be surprisingly accurate, according to the research, published in Postgraduate Medical Journal, one of the British Medical Association's publishing stable.

The volunteers, aged between 38 and 57, comprised 318 men and 129 women.

On average, the men looked somewhat older to the panel than they really were, by around four months, while the women looked somewhat younger, by almost six months.

Predictably, graying hair in both sexes and, in men, baldness made an individual look older than he or she really was, as did arcus senilis.

But in both groups, the oldest-looking turned out to be smokers.

The researchers suggested this is because of tobacco smoke's well-established ability to damage skin elasticity and cause wrinkles.

On the other hand, there was no link between alcohol consumption and apparent aging, nor was a volunteer's job status a factor.

Among men, looking older was associated with higher levels of cholesterol, the fatty compound in the blood which is often linked to greasy food, and with higher levels of hemoglobin, the oxygen carrier in red blood cells which plays a role in cardiovascular disease.

Among women, looking older was linked with high levels of blood erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)—a test to screen the body's response to inflammatory diseases—and low levels of bilirubin, a waste product of worn-out red blood cells that can affect skin color.

These chemical links to aging are intriguing and warrant further study, says the study. ***AFP***

Barbed-wire crest for new bishop

(From page A1)

in a long, lingering embrace during the offertory of the Mass, drawing a collective sigh and a rousing ovation from the congregation.

Cardinal Sin, who performed the rites of ordination, and Villegas shed tears as they hugged after Villegas was enthroned at the Cathedral as a member of the college of bishops. It was also Sin's 73rd birthday.

Since his ordination as a priest 16 years ago, Villegas has been the cardinal's personal secretary and spokesperson.

Villegas waxed sentimental when he addressed his community from the Edsa Shrine where he has been its rector the past 12 years.

"My beloved Edsa Shrine community, my one and only, I love you all. You met me as Father Soc almost 12 years ago. Let me be your father, only your father, and always your father. If you grew up in faith at the Edsa Shrine, it is because of God." he said.

"If I am a bishop now, it is because of God and you. Edsa Shrine, I love you."

Lyrical

To his mentor, Cardinal Sin, Villegas was lyrical.

"Sixteen years ago, when you asked me to work for you, I saw in you a great man of faith, of joy and zealous service... With my eyes I captured your life. With your life, you captured my heart. You suffer for us, because of us, instead of us," Villegas told Sin after his ordination.

Villegas was just months into the priesthood when he stood by the side of the politically influential prelate during the four days of People Power in February 1986. Sin called on the Filipino people to gather at Edsa to protect with their bodies the military contingent that had rebelled against the dictatorial rule of President Ferdinand Marcos.

Last January, it was Villegas who turned on the lights of the Edsa Shrine to welcome a mass of protesters against President Joseph Estrada.

For the next four days, Villegas played solicitous host to the angry hordes demanding the resignation of Estrada.

On Jan. 20, Estrada stepped down. The military and police withdrew their support after seeing the increasing numbers of protesters who kept steady vigil at the Edsa Shrine.

The shrine had become the court of last resort for a people seeking justice. The shrine had become the refuge for a nation in distress. And the gentle Msgr. Soc was the custodian of the people's dreams for justice and peace.

Patient, pained

Villegas was the unwilling but patient and prayerful minister to an unruly throng of Estrada supporters who staged a counter-rally for five days at the Edsa Shrine.

Villegas was pained as he heard the Estrada crowd sing obscene songs and saw garbage littering the feet of the Blessed Mother.

When he talked about the desecration of the shrine to Our Lady of Peace, he broke down in tears. But like his mentor, Villegas is a forceful speaker. He lashed out at the powerful personalities behind the so-called People Power III, saying they manipulated the poor to advance their political agenda.

Outstanding service

"Many of us eagerly awaited the event we now celebrate. Father Soc ordained nearly 16 years ago, made papal chaplain only six years later, named Vicar general in 1993—has been charged with so many responsibilities at so young an age," said Sin in his homily.

"He has already rendered outstanding service to the archdiocese and also to the Church in our country," the archbishop said.

Sin credited Villegas for the success of Pope John Paul II's visit and World Youth Day celebrations in 1995 and for the young clergyman's work at the Edsa Shrine community and other acts of pastoral service.

"So, to the Holy Father, our thanks, our thanks! Pope John Paul II, we love you. Because of this gift, we love you even more," Sin said.

In his own remarks, the young bishop's motto, pax, found expression:

"In my life, may the world receive the peace of Jesus. Let my life be for peace. When I die or if they kill me as they killed Jesus, may the world receive new peace in my sacrifice." ***With a report from Norman Bordadora***

Texters win TRO vs Globe, Smart

(From page A1)

"We'll comply with the court's decision, but we'll make our case before the court," Smart's spokesperson Ramon Isberto told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He added that they are confident the court will side with them.

"We wouldn't be doing this if we didn't think we'd win. We're just preparing our case for the court," he said.

Domingo said the basis for the court's decision was the companies' statements themselves.

"They were questioning the jurisdiction of the court. They argued that the NTC (National Telecommunications Commission) should be the one in charge of the case, but in a letter they sent (Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta) earlier, they stated that the court should be the one to handle it because text messaging is deregulated," he said.

But Domingo argued that the class suit filed on behalf of more than 7 million cellular phone subscribers nationwide by PLDTI, together with co-complainants Gerardo Kaimo, Vicente Gambito, Adrian Sison and Ma. Mylene dela Cruz, is actually a breach of contract case. The proper venue, he said, is really the court.

Kaimo is the controversial webmaster of the satirical, anti-cartel, anti-Philippine Long Distance Telephone website, www.pldt.com.

Globe office

Globe has argued that the case should have been filed with the Mandaluyong RTC because that is where their office is located, but Smart said the complainants should have filed their case with the Makati RTC because their head office is based there.

"That will give consumers a hard time because they would have to file their case in two venues instead of just one," Domingo said.

The TRO was issued two days after the suit was filed last Wednesday.

Despite the Court's decision, TXTPower said it would still continue with the nationwide text-boycott in order to persuade the government to permanently stop the monopolies from implementing any cuts in free text.

"We are fighting a powerful cabal of cartel operators who will fight for every cent of extra profit. They will move heaven and earth to get more profits even at the consumers' expense and through outright lying about their true financial condition," Cruz said.

While it welcomed the softening of Globe and Smart on the text cutback issue, TXTPower said it would still ask the National Telecommunications Commission to declare the cutback null and void. Initially, the companies had sought a 67-percent cut, but under intense public pressure proposed a 33-percent cut this month and another 33-percent cut in January.

The group described the staggered cutback as "theft by installment."

"Texters everywhere should oppose this theft by installment. It's like thieves telling us that they will steal less today, only to steal the rest sometime later," Cruz said.

When 'all right' is not all right

(From page A1)

the academy's ideals of honesty and idealism.

If an upperclassman asks a member of a lower class the question, he is asking if the latter is telling the truth.

A cadet must acknowledge the query with the same forthright phrase "all right, sir" to confirm that he or she has not violated any of the code's time-honored values.

"All right, sir" is a traditional assertion among cadets, which means a cadet is not violating the academy's honor code.

But the use of the code follows strict protocol: Only senior graduates or upperclassmen are supposed to invoke the challenge with junior officers.

"A lower classman can never, ever ask an upperclassman if it's all right," according to one PMA graduate, although he added that there is in fact an exception.

"When you're on guard duty as officer-of-the-day or cadet-in-charge-of-quarters, you can challenge an upperclassman," he said.

The officer said that if a superior officer wants to emphasize the truthfulness of a statement to a junior officer, he himself sometimes volunteers that "I'm all right."

Reyes, Lacson's senior by five years, did not repeat the phrase "all right, sir," when he graced the resumption of the Senate's "Question Hour" Thursday to shed light on military evidence linking Lacson to organized crime.

Instead, the defense chief told the senator: "I am under oath, your honor."

This public exchange has since ignited discussion among PMA alumni and cadets about the "real score" behind the numerous scandals affecting the military, a PMA instructor in Baguio City told the INQUIRER on Friday.

Interpretations

In Fort del Pilar in Baguio, Capt. Edgard Arevalo, PMA spokesman, said the academy's alumni, including his own Class 1990, are discussing the repercussions of that exchange because it drew the PMA into what he described as "a political fray."

"When (Reyes) did not answer (Lacson's) challenge, it opened his position (on the allegations) to many interpretations. One interpretation says General Reyes did not acknowledge it because he was lying. Another interpretation—which I personally believe—is that Reyes was merely asserting that his oath before the Senate was enough guarantee that he was telling the truth," Arevalo added.

The officer in Manila said former PNP chief Lacson's question "was an outright insult" to former AFP chief Reyes. He also said Lacson violated protocol by challenging Reyes' truthfulness during the Question Hour.

"When you commit that offense you must be very brave," the officer said. Being "very brave" in PMA parlance means one has lost respect for an upperclassman.

"It's a killable offense and your upperclassman has the right to hit you," the same officer said.

Offended, confused

The instructor in Baguio, who also requested anonymity, said cadets there are already "ruffled, offended and confused" by the public scandals affecting the military, from Lacson's alleged links to organized crime to the recent congressional investigations of alleged collusion between the military and the bandit group Abu Sayyaf.

But the exchange between Lacson and Reyes hurt the PMA cadets because it insinuated that the scandals were borderline political conflicts among the "ruling PMA classes," the instructor said.

Spokesperson Arevalo said "the phrase 'all right, sir' is a response to the principles that a cadet must take to heart. These tenets abhor liquor, gambling, activities that are off limits."

He added: "A PMA guard usually hurls the challenge before a barrack door at night after taps (the horn-blown march signaling the end of the day). Cadets who do not respond to the challenge already violate the code which prescribes they should not lie cheat or steal or tolerate those who do."

In Manila, text messages protesting Lacson's challenge to Reyes have been circulating among "cavaliers," as PMAyers sometimes call themselves in public, or "bugo-bugos," as they call themselves in private.

One such message read: "Let's protest Lacson's use of the honor code 'all right' on TV. Don't let him drag the name of the PMA (into this) to make us believe him and get our support. Pass to bugo-bugos."

Both can't be right

Maj. Gen. Rufo de Veyra, PMA superintendent and a member of PMA Class 1970, and his classmate, Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, commander of the Northern Luzon Command, said in a recent press conference that the controversies involving the military have been hurting the 600,000-strong Armed Forces.

Arevalo said the controversies affect members of the "ruling" PMA Classes of 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972 who now hold top positions in the AFP, or who are slated to take over its reins.

Lacson and his accuser, intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus "come from the same (military) roots, but (took different) paths . . . Both of them cannot be wrong, and both of them cannot be right. One of them can be right sometimes," De Veyra said.

"We have been conducting regular surveys, and in one survey, we asked the cadets: 'Do you believe the honor code is still relevant today?' The unanimous answer was yes," Arevalo said.

"The cadets want to uphold the honor system. They never doubted the honor system" despite the controversies plaguing PMA graduates, he added.

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- 1 per area
Consolation Prize: 4.2 kg. Single-Tub washer (model #ES-421W)
- 5 per area

2nd Minor Draw - December 1, 2001
Minor Prizes:
(to be received by winners in the following areas: GMA, Luzon, and Visayas/Mindanao):
First Prize: 29" Aphrody TV (model #29V-J200S)
- 1 per area
Second Prize: 1hp Window-type Room Aircon (model #AF-A901S)
- 1 per area
Third Prize: VCD Mini-System (model #CD-BK260V)
- 1 per area
Consolation Prize : 3.3 kg Twin-tub washing machine (model #ES-3300T)
- 5 per area

Grand Raffle Draw - January 12, 2002
Prizes to be won in each area (GMA, Luzon, and Visayas/Mindanao)
Grand Prize : Toyota REVO (SRG)
-1 per area
Second Prize : Audio/Video Showcase
-1 per area
Third Prize : Home Appliance Showcase
-1 per area
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See leaflets for complete promo details.

MINOR DRAW PRIZES:

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Second Prize:
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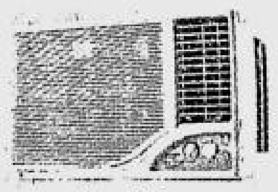
Second Prize:
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Consolation Prize:
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or 3.3 kg. Twin-Tub washer

Third Prize:
VCD Mini-System

INSTANT WIN GAME PRIZES:

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1211 Series of 2001.

Red Bull ready for SEA Games

PBA Commissioner's Cup champion Red Bull Energy Drink is willing to represent the country in the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games Sept. 8-19.

Energy Kings coach Yeng Guiao, guesting in the weekly Sports Communicators Organization of the Philippines (SCOOP) forum at the Kamayan West Avenue yesterday, said the team is ready to serve the country when called to duty.

"It's a great idea, and we are more than willing to serve the country. It's a great honor for us," said Guiao, who was joined in the forum by team manager Tony Chua and players Renato Agustin, Jimwell Torion, Junthy Valenzuela, Kerby Raymundo, Willie Miller, Mick Pennisi and Davonn Harp.

"But the decision lies with the sports officials *kung sino ang padadala nila. Basta kami*, we are willing to represent the country and *handa kami* anytime," said Guiao.

Commenting on his team's recent victory, Guiao said: "And the boys really worked hard, *hindi nila inisip yung* psychological barrier *na isang pader tulad ng* San Miguel *ang nakaharap nila sa* finals. *Natutuwa ako na* such a young team won the championship against a great dynasty."

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Patriots trip Marlins; Blades down Lakers

Games Sunday (Tinga Gym, Taguig)
3:00 p.m.—Cebuana Lhuillier vs Nueva Ecija
5:30 p.m.—FedEx Batangas vs Socsargen

By Roy Luarca

THE NUEVA Ecija Patriots played bad, but the Socsargen Marlins played worse yesterday in the opener of the MBA Second Phase at the San Juan Gym.

With the Marlins scoring an all-time low four points in the fourth quarter, the Patriots posted a come-from-behind 71-63 victory as they welcomed new coach Arlene Rodriguez and three recruits.

Nueva Ecija thus asserted its mastery of Socsargen, which it also bested twice in the First Phase.

The LBC Batangas Blades likewise kept their superiority over the FedEx Laguna Lakers with a 95-80 rout in the second game.

Ralph Rivera poured all of his 14 points in the second half to power the Blades, who drew 21 points from Romel Adducul, to three 16-point spreads.

The Marlins actually led up to the end of the third quarter, 59-53, before their guns fell silent in the last 12 minutes, allowing the Patriots to dictate the tempo behind newcomers Jay Magat and Ramil Ferma and mainstay Sonny Manucat.

Ferma and Manucat fired four points each while Magat, taking the chores vacated by the injured Jonathan de Guzman, added two points aside from orchestrating the plays as Nueva Ecija clustered 10 points to pull ahead of Socsargen, 64-59.

It was Francis Aquino, however, who kept the Patriots afloat in the first three quarters with 21 points.

The Marlins could only buy their first baskets after six minutes of play in the fourth quarter on a drive by Bong Alvarez as the game turned into an eyesore owing to the numerous turnovers made by both teams.

With the Marlins committing 34 turnovers and the Patriots adding 25, the two teams netted an all-time high 59 turnovers.

MBA team owners are undergoing a two-day planning session for the 2002 season at the Tali Beach in Nasugbu, Batangas. Among the agenda is the decision on lawyer Ogie Narvasa's resignation as MBA commissioner.

Pending Narvasa's formal bowing out, deputy commissioner Butch Antonio will be the acting commissioner.

Scores:

NUEVA ECIJA 71—Aquino 21, Manucat 13, Magat 8, Chaneco 7, Bautista 6, De Guzman 4, Allen 4, Ferma 4, Bansil 3, Punzalan 1.

SOCSARGEN 63—Alvarez 18, Teng 9, Echavez 8, Santos 7, Martin 6, Flores 6, Salvador 5, Co 2, Reyes 2, Natividad 0, Pimentel 0.

Quarters: 18-12, 38-29, 53-59, 71-63.

'Guam in One' on at Kagitingan

GUAM Visitors Bureau general manager James Nelson and top officials of sponsoring companies Mizuno, Continental Airlines and Pacific Islands Club will grace today's opening of the Guam in One, a hole-in-one challenge, at the Kagitingan Driving Range.

Nelson will be joined by Continental Micronesia general manager Ramon Magno, Masters Sports managing director Lovell Gopez and GVB Philippine representative Kendrick U. Go in the opening ceremonies at 8 a.m.

The contest, scheduled for five consecutive Saturdays this month, stakes a golfing holiday in Guam as a prize.

From 9 a.m. onward, golfers will be allowed to take a crack at the prize from designated stalls.

The GVB is the lead organization of the contest with the support of Continental Airlines as the official carrier, Mizuno as the official equipment and the Pacific Islands Club as official hotel.

Only one winner will emerge from the contest. Should there be more than one who will score an ace, they will dispute the prize via a shoot-off on the final Saturday of the series with the player whose tee-shot coming closest to the pin getting the trip.

MARCHING ON

American Andre Agassi returns a shot to Nicolas Massau of Chile yesterday in the US Open tennis tournament in New York. Agassi won, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (1). Also advancing were defending champion Marat Safin, Tim Henman, Jennifer Capriati and Venus Williams. AP

Tecson winds up 5th

SUBANGJAYA, Malaysia—Jenz Tecson sparkled with a 68 yesterday to settle for fifth place in this year's seventh Asia Pacific Junior Match Play Championship here.

Tecson, 15, beat three other losing quarter-finalists in an 18-hole round played medal.

Earlier in the day, Tecson, a St. Stephen High School student back home, lost in the quarterfinals to Thailand's Kamolkis Trakulchang on the 20th hole in the match play phase of the tournament.

Tecson was the lone Filipino in the tournament. Philippine Junior Golf Federation headed by its president Edgardo "Boy" Cantada was delegation head. Cantada's son Gerard was Tecson's coach.

Malaysian Airlines flew the three from Manila via business class. Milo and Outback Steak House supported their trip.

Ong eyes race title

FERDINAND Ong of Rota-Speedwelle-Outlast Battery will try to formalize his claim to the overall championship at the conclusion of the 2001 Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway this weekend.

Ong, who failed to capture the overall title outright in the last four rounds due to several mishaps, is expected to be formally crowned as the champion in this 14-part, annual series organized by Sports Values Inc. (SVI) in cooperation with Petron Corp. "I'll do my best. It will be a great honor to me to win the overall title," said Ong.

Ong is enjoying a commanding 15-point lead over Rookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA, 70-55, with only two rounds left in the Blaze-sponsored super saloon category.

Mandaluyong derby slated

MANDALUYONG Coliseum presents yet another explosive battle among the country's bigtime cockers and breeders via the "Ratratan 6-Stag Derby" on Sept. 4 and 6. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo. Submission of entries is on Sept. 3, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. only. For inquiries, please contact 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341.

Stags that are wingbanded by Pagba, Ucap, Migba, NGBA and GF-Ban are accepted but subject for re-classification. Interested parties may contact Manzenares at 951-5078 (farm) or 0917-4531276 and Dolorico at 049-5621551 or 0917-3947794.

90 breeders confirm participation

NO less than 90 breeders confirmed their participation in the much-awaited BL Showdown 7-Stag National Derby to be held on Sept. 3, 5, and 7 at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

These breeders will come from Cagayan de Oro City, Cebu, Ozamis, Pampanga, Bulacan, San Pablo City, Laguna, Batangas, Antipolo and Metro Manila.

Promoter Danny Ty announced that the screening will be extended until tomorrow at the Roligon, from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

He also said that stags that have passed the screening committee of Mimi Itchon and Juancho Aguirre can participate in all succeeding derbies at Roligon.

Hosted by Boy "Lechon" de Rocha, Juancho Aguirre and Ty, this derby will have a 3-stag elimination on Sept. 3 and 5. Entries may choose to participate in either dates.

Navy's Salvador tops Bataan chess

ROLAND Salvador, a 19-year-old Philippine Navy recruit, ruled the Governor Open Active chess tournament, a side event to the recent 2001 Inter-Provincial Chess Team Championship held at the People's Center in Balanga, Bataan.

Salvador topped the 85-man field with his 6.5 points out of a possible seven. He defeated fellow Navyman Christopher Rodriguez in the seventh and final round to win the title and the P8,000 cash.

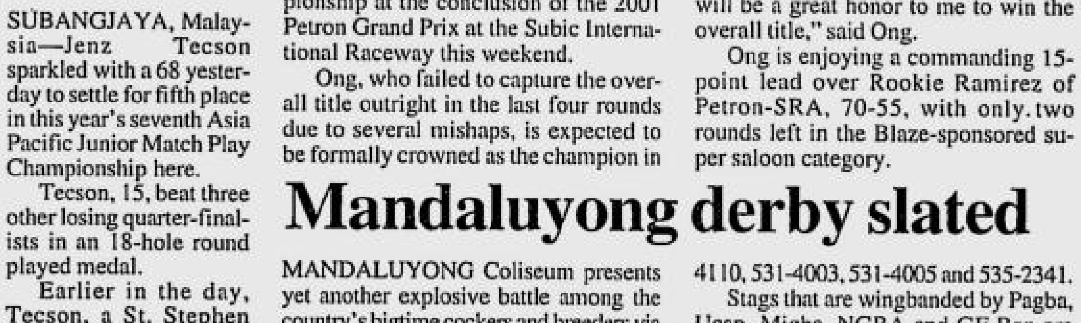
"*Malaking bagay para sa akin ang panalong ito pati na rin sa* team *ko* (Navy). *Nagpapasalamat din ako kay* Gov. Roman *sa pag-iisponsor niya sa* side event *na ito*," said Salvador, a third-year AB Communications student at the University of Sto. Tomas.

The Navy actually had three players in the top five places, with National Master Richard Bitoon tying for second-third places with NM Allan Sayson.

Bitoon and Sayson took home P4,000 each.

The other Navy player who made it to the top five circle was NM Yves Ranols, who finished tied for fourth to fifth places with NM Roland Joseph Perez.

Esmael Abas of the Philippine National Police emerged as the top non-master after finishing with 5.5 points. He won P3,000.



CHAMPIONS

Mt. Province (Pines City Chess Academy) chess team led by GM Eugene Torre (third from right) receives the championship trophy from Bataan Gov. Leonardo "Ding" Roman (fourth from left) during the awards ceremony of the 2001 National Inter-Provincial Chess Team Championship. Others in photo are (from left to right), Bataan PNP Director Col. Perfecto Palad, Board 3 player Rex Ami, Board 2 NM Rolando Nolte, team manager Rod Suaco, Board 4 Rolando Yutuc and Board 5 Ildefonso Datu.

Letran ends JRU's winning run

By June Navarro

LETRAN College tarnished Jose Rizal University's unbeaten slate with an 83-81 victory yesterday in NCAA men's basketball at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Knights leaned on rookie-sensation Ismael Junio and Harold Sta. Cruz's last-minute heroics as they snapped the Heavy Bombers' nine-game winning run and moved closer to a Final Four stint with a 5-5 card.

In the other varsity game, host Philippine Christian University dumped San Sebastian College, 72-65, to register its fourth win in 10 games. The Stags slipped to 6-4.

Junio, a 5-foot-11 swingman from Pangasinan, drilled a crucial trey in the final bend while Sta. Cruz blocked Joel Finuliar's potential game-tying shot as time ran out.

Sta. Cruz's defensive gem came after the Bombers' prolific scorer Ernani Epondulan flubbed a three-pointer that fell on the hands of a stunned Finuliar.

Ronjay Enrile, last year's NCAA juniors MVP, then pegged the final count with two free throws after the Heavy Bombers sent him to the stripe.

Epondulan, who used to average at least 25 points per game and even had a career-high of 43 at one time, was limited to only two points throughout the roller-coaster match.

Junio and swingman William Moody hounded Epondulan no end with their smothering defense.

LETRAN 83—Sta. Cruz 19, Enrile 11, Junio 13, Ayo 11, Moody 8, Misolas 8, Sillona 8, Moreno 5, Pacheco 0.

JRU 81—Dela Rea 19, Capus 14, Santos 10, Gregorio 10, Fajardo 9, Ty 4, Finuliar 4, Epondulan 2, Espiritu 2, Jorge 2.

Quarters: 27-23, 43-45, 58-57, 83-81.

BAP polls: Literal sure to run but not Puyat

THE FIBA-ordered election of the Basketball Association of the Philippines will be held tomorrow, with Tiny Literal sure to run but not Lito Puyat.

Literal had previously "won" five times as BAP president during the last nine months that he had a running feud with Puyat, the BAP president previously recognized by Cito Dayrit. Dayrit is the president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Expected to arrive today are Fiba deputy secretary general Patrick Baumann and International Olympic Committee director Pere Miro who will preside over the exercise.

The elections will be held at the Century Park Hotel at 2 p.m. tomorrow, with Asian Basketball Confederation president Carl Men-ky Ching and secretary general Yeoh Cheoh Hock also anticipated to be in attendance.

Dayrit, invited as observer, said said he would be at the polls once the IOC gives the green light for him to be around.

He said the result of the election will be treated with finality. He also named the squad composed of MBA stalwarts as the official entry of the country in the SEA Games.

The Fiba's move to administer an election and Dayrit's assertions, however, were met with criticisms from Puyat's group.

Mauricio Martelino, Puyat's VP for operations, castigated the POC for allowing the Fiba and the IOC to encroach on matters that "should be solved internally by the BAP."

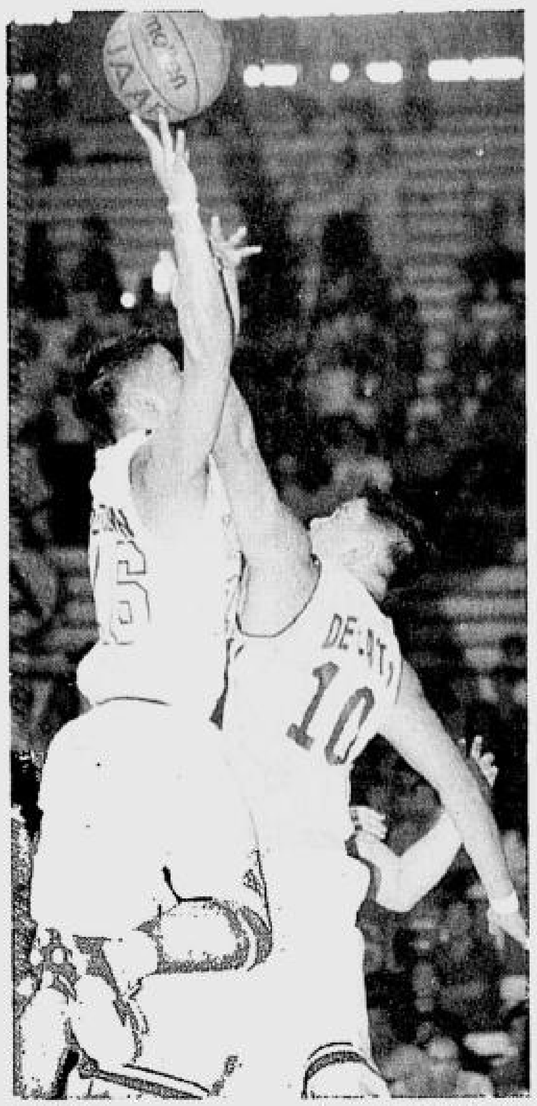
Puyat said the election should only be resorted to after the Fiba panel had conducted an arbitration on the leadership issue between Literal and Puyat.

He also noted the recent ruling of the Court of Appeals recognizing the POC as the sole authority to decide on sports matters affecting the country.

By June Navarro

Chino to grace opening

PBL Commisisoner Chino Trinidad will be the guest of honor at the opening of the Bargo Sports Bar and Restaurant today at 5 p.m. at Eastwood City Walk, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Trinidad will lead the ribbon cutting ceremony along with owners Fred Milner and Leonora Rivera, and some prominent professional and amateur cagers and officials invited to grace the affair.



UAAP VALHANDUMON

Rookie Rene de Guzman (left) of University of Santo Tomas challenges 6-foot-5 Ariel de Castro of National University in this bit of action last Thursday at the Loyola Gym. The Bulldogs escaped with a 72-69 victory.

Trinidad-Hopkins fight on RPN 9

WORLD champion Felix Trinidad, undefeated in 40 outings with 33 knockouts, goes up against dangerous Bernard Hopkins, who kayoed 28 of his 39 victims, on Sept. 16.

The much-awaited fight will be telecast over RPN 9 beginning at 10:30 a.m.

This is the first gigantic boxing feature of RPN 9 since the network underwent a major face-lift in the News, Public Affairs & Sports division under Philip Tan.

"It behooves us therefore to come up with a creditable performance for the Philippine side in this eagerly awaited undisputed face-off, one that will focus the hard-hitting prowess of these two brilliant middleweights," said Hermie Rivera.

Rivera is the Manila anchor of the blockbuster telecast in tandem with the Inquirer's Al S. Mendoza as analyst.

Not since the glory days of Sugar Ray Robinson and his heirs that the fight has evoked nostalgic musings.

10 YEARS AGO

ROGELIO Barcenilla beat Yugoslavian Nikola Mitkov in 52 moves to keep his bid of reaching the Top 10 alive in the ninth round of the World Junior chess championship in Mamaia, Romania. Barcenilla forced an exchange of pieces in the middle game to win.

Serious threat

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

THE PHILADELPHIA 76ers are the reigning Eastern Conference titlists but look for the retooled Orlando Magic and the much-improved Toronto Raptors to pose a serious threat to their supremacy in the conference in the 2001-02 NBA wars.

That's because the two teams now posses an intimidating physical force in the middle in battle-scarred warriors Patrick Ewing (Orlando) and Hakeem Olajuwon (Toronto).

Although they are past their prime, the 39-year-old Ewing and the 38-year-old Olajuwon, a pair of future Hall of Famers who were voted among the 50 greatest players in NBA history, still have some gas left in their tank to battle the other mastodons in the weak, weak East.

The key off-season acquisitions by the Magic are Ewing and four-time championship veteran Horace Grant. Plucked out of the free-agent pool, the Florida unit was able to convince Ewing, who returns to the East after an uneventful season in Seattle, and Grant, who is back for a second tour of duty in Disney World (he first suited up for Orlando from 1994-99) after one-year stints with the Supersonics and LA Lakers the last two years, to switch allegiance and split the Magic's $4.538 million mid-level salary cap exception.

The Magic frontline was further bolstered by the re-signing of their own free agents, forward-centers Don Reid and Andrew DeClercq, to soften the departure of centers John Amaechi (who went to Utah via free agency) and Michael Doleac (traded to Cleveland). Orlando also acquired guard Laron Profit from Washington in a trade to compensate for the retirement of injury-prone guard Dee Brown.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Tanging Ikaw 2. Rio Rossa 3. Pride of Dila 4. Best Lover

Race 2—1. Lucky El 2. Storm Princess 3. Mighty Swift 4. Pretty Pleasing

Race 3—1. T Square 2. Love and Kisses 3. Adrenalin 4. Main Street 5. Ohayo Gozaimas

Race 4—1. Classic Wine 2. D Contractor 3. Demolition Jack 4. Classic Star

Race 5—1. Hot Number 2. Spirited Lady 3. Ikaw Pag Asa Ko 4. Nevada Rhum 5. Smart Kevin

Race 6—1. Southern Skies 2. Queen Scholar 3. Ceasar's Inn

Race 7—1. Firenze Rose 2. Simply Great 3. Secreto 4. Richie Rich 5. Raggedy Belle 6. Speed Empire

Race 8—1. The Fox 2. Bull Rider 3. Sunny Contender 4. Master Ijhay'

Race 9—1. Miguel's Pet 2. Maginoo's Pride 3. Allusion 4. All Powerful 5. Cue Artist

Race 10—1. Meal Ticket 2. Vinia's Pride 3. His Excellency 4. Great Going

Race 11—1. Lady Queen 2. Terminal Bound 3. Ace of Space 4. Best of Ocean/Stock Rising 5. Premiere Act

Race 12—1. Pretty Boy Chino 2. Dancing Klara 3. Jhelen 4. Southern Gent

Race 13—1. Monopoly 2. War General 3. Pride of Mandaue 4. Big Kahuna 5. Secret Quest

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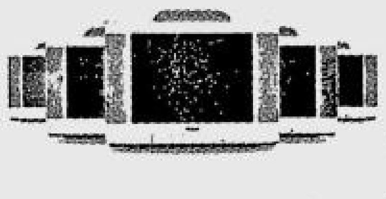

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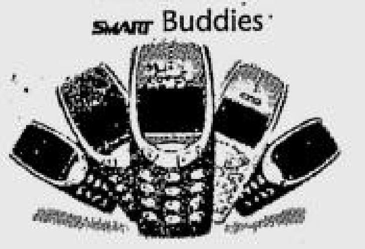

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MOTOR SPORTS: 2001 Formula One Qualifying - Belgium Grand Prix at 7 a.m. (r – tomorrow at 5 p.m.) on Star Sports

Lipa, two other coaches suspended

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—UP vs UST (Jrs)
2:00 p.m.—UST vs UP (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—FEU vs Ateneo (Srs)

BY DENNIS U. EROA

COACH Joe Lipa of Ateneo and two other head coaches were slapped a one-game suspension each as the Asian Basketball Academy yesterday cracked the whip on basketball hooliganism in the ongoing UAAP men's basketball wars.

Ateneo slotman Enrico Villanueva, the leading MVP contender, and rookie Steve Rolan, Adamson's own version of Shaquille O' Neal, were also suspended immediately for figuring in a fight during the Blue Eagles-Falcons match last Thursday.

"There is no place for hooliganism in the UAAP. We hope these sanctions will remind everyone involved in the league that we're all here to enjoy the game and not make basketbrawls," tournament director Chot Reyes said.

"Players and coaches must provide the example of good behavior and self-restraint in the face of the tension and pressure their teams face in these crucial stages of the tournament," Reyes added.

The crackdown, according to Reyes, was approved by the technical and competition committees following reviews on ABA-Phils' video tapes.

Also suspended were coaches Boysie Zamar of the University of the East and Luigi Trillo of Adamson.

Zamar was penalized for incurring a third technical foul for the season after continuously complaining about the officiating in the Red Warriors' 68-63 loss to FEU last Sunday at the Loyola Gym.

According to a UAAP ruling, three technical fouls incurred by a player or a coach will lead to an automatic one-game suspension. Trillo, who hasn't tasted a victory since taking over the Falcons' coaching chores last year, was suspended for storming inside the court after the Villanueva-Rolan altercation.

Lipa was penalized for throwing a chair inside the court during the second quarter of Ateneo's hard-earned 63-61 victory over Adamson last Thursday at the Loyola Gym.

The chair, according to an ABA-Phils press release, nearly hit referee George Gonzales and Adamson player Edilberto Mangulabnan.

Obviously, Lipa was unhappy over a referee's call.

"Lipa's act constitutes grave misconduct extremely detrimental to the best interests of the league," ABA-Phils said.

Before Lipa's outburst, Villanueva punched Rolan on the face during a rebound scuffle. Villanueva's action escaped the attention of the referees and he went on to finish the game, while Rolan, who retaliated with a punch, was thrown out of the game.

With the suspension, the 6-foot-5 Villanueva may have kissed his MVP hopes godbye.

Last year, Villanueva was all set to become MVP but was disqualified following a one-game suspension.

Lipa and Villanueva will watch from the sidelines as the Eagles tackle the Far Eastern U Tamaraws at 4 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Also banned from attending the games were UE's training team member James Garcia and his father, Arturo, and Dante Robles for a ringside brawl during the La Salle-FEU game.

Two FEU supporters and one Atenean, whose identities are still being confirmed by the ABA, have also been banned as a result of the melee which occurred after the FEU-La Salle match.

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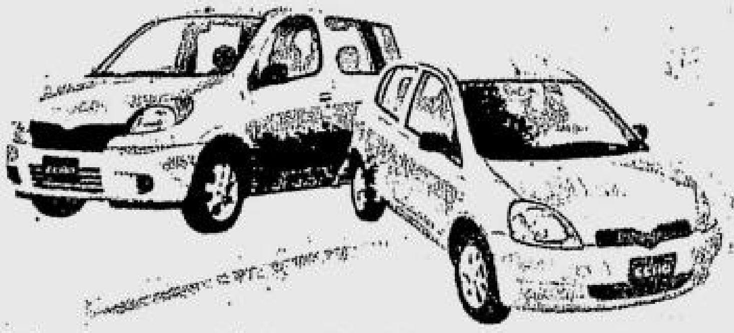

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1273, Series of 2001

- **When walking means giving** A26
- **Recruiter nabbed for duping 100** A24

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

- **GMA-7 exec robbed of P300,000** A24

'VICTIM' Gina Celso as Grasya of the PLDT ad.

Hello, Billy, where's Grasya?

By Nini Valera

NO OTHER media creation in recent times has gripped the public's attention as intensely as the fictional Grasya in the "Hello, Billy" PLDT televi-

HELLO, BILLY A27

Another cell phone owner shot dead

By Philip C. Tubeza

A 23-YEAR-OLD student was shot dead yesterday morning in Quezon City after he refused to give up his cell phone to two holdup men.

Edgar Allen B. Ferry, of Parañaque City, became the latest cell phone owner to be killed over his cell phone, according to investigator SPO1 Dennis Basabas of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Ferry died after two snatchers shot him in the chest in Fairview, Quezon City, police said.

Police said Ferry and his friend Edward Peregrino were walking home when the two men accosted them at the corner of Iris and Dahlia streets in Fairview about 1:30 a.m. yesterday.

Armed with handguns, the two men came from different directions and ganged up on Ferry and Peregrino, police said.

The two men announced the holdup and ordered Ferry and Peregrino to give them their cell phones.

Police said Ferry refused to give up his cell phone and tried to fight off the

ANOTHER/A24

Cop shot dead by holdup men

By Alcuin Papa

A POLICEMAN was shot dead while another was critically wounded in a shootout with robbers in Parañaque City on Thursday.

PO1 Raymond Sula, of the Light Reaction Unit of the National Capital Region Police Office, died as he was being taken to a clinic, said Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque police chief.

Sula's partner, PO1 Filomeno Velasco, is being treated for gunshot wounds at the Com Care Medical Clinic.

After the shootout, the two unidentified suspects managed to escape on board a motorcycle, along with the P100,000 they stole from Dorothy Jane Blasé, 35, of Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City.

Insp. Ryan David, deputy station commander of Parañaque City Police Station 3, said in a report that they received a call from Blasé about 1 p.m. on Thursday.

Blasé, a medical representative of Glaxo Philippines, told police that two men on a motorcycle robbed her on Dona Soledad Street in Better Living, Barangay Don Bosco, Parañaque.

Sula and Velasco were on patrol in the vicinity and chanced upon the suspects just as they were robbing Blasé, David said.

The two policemen immediately opened fire on the suspects and a short but furious exchange ensued. The robbers escaped after the two policemen were hit, David said.

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Mayor orders dismantling of police substation on sidewalk

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday ordered a police substation in Sta. Ana torn down because it was built on a sidewalk and endangered students crossing the street.

The mayor said he instructed the city police director, Senior supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., to dismantle the police community precinct along J. Posadas Street in Sta. Ana as soon as possible after barangay leaders, resident and parents of children studying at the nearby Emilio Aguinaldo Integrated School complained to him.

According to the complainants, their children risk being sideswiped by motor vehicles as they walk to and from their school every day because they are unable to use the sidewalk.

The mayor said it was "ironic that these school children are placed in harm's way every day because of the police substation in the area that was supposedly placed there to ensure their safety.

"Instead of ensuring the safety of these kids, the police substation places them in danger by denying them the use of the sidewalk and forcing them to walk on the street," he said.

The demolition is part of the City Hall's ongoing "sidewalk liberation drive," a campaign to rid the city's major streets of obstructions and illegal structures.

Over the past two months, the city government has cleared sidewalks in the University Belt and Divisoria of sidewalk stalls and other illegal structures.

The drive dislocated hundreds of sidewalk vendors, whom the mayor tried to mollify the other day by allowing them to rebuild their stalls on the side streets under a City Hall-supervised vending program.

The City Hall has enlisted the help of 25 convicts from the New Bilibid Prisons who were either on parole, conditional pardon or probation as volunteers in the city's regular clean-up campaign.

The convicts, all Manila residents, started work today by clearing the traffic island on Taft Avenue of weeds, garbage and other debris.

The mayor said the City Hall would provide the volunteer workers allowance and free rice rations. The volunteers would report every Friday morning to help in the cleanliness drive.

"This is also an opportunity for them to be reintegrated in the mainstream of society and lead productive lives," Atienza added. "If they do well, we could help them find a decent and more stable means of livelihood."

FULFILLING THE PROMISE

Jamby Madrigal, chair emeritus of Able Foundation, leads in carrying out the Feed-a-Child program for the schoolchildren of the Payatas B Elementary School annex in the community called Lupang Pangako (Promised Land) near the dumpsite in Quezon City. DENNIS SABANGAN

Recruiter nabbed for duping 100

By Alcuin Papa

POLICE arrested on Tuesday a sweet-talking woman for allegedly duping about 100 people into paying her recruitment fees for non-existent jobs in Korea.

Gloria Santos-Atienza, resident of Makati City and a supervisor of GSA Manpower Corp. at the Dona Generosa Building on Edsa in Pasay City, was arrested after her victims filed charges against her, said Insp. Aquilino Almanza, chief of the Pasay Police Criminal Investigation Division

The sworn statements of Carina Linatoc, 25; Elizabeth Pilit, 25; and Angelina Mujar, 26, three of Atienza's alleged victims, said the suspect managed to convince them to pay a P40,000 initial placement fee to be able to work in Korea as factory workers, store helpers and domestic helpers.

They said they paid Atienza on July 23, 2000 for the processing of their passports and other documents.

After four months, they paid Atienza another P60,000, they said. Atienza then told them they would be able to leave for Korea in three months' time, they said.

The victims said they waited for a year but they were still not able to leave the country.

Last March, the three women and about 100 other people Atienza allegedly victimized discovered there were no jobs waiting for them in Korea and asked Atienza to return their money.

After Atienza failed to return their money, the victims filed charges of estafa and illegal recruitment charges against her with the Pasay City police.

Atienza is detained at the police station.

Another set of victims earlier filed charges against Atienza with the Pasay City Prosecutor's Office, but Atienza was able to post bail, police said.

GMA-7 exec robbed of P300,000

By Philip C. Tubeza

AN EXECUTIVE producer of GMA Channel 7 was robbed of nearly P300,000 after he withdrew the money from a bank in Quezon City Thursday afternoon.

Raja R. Bocobo, 40, of Project 6, Quezon City, lost a total of P281,400 to three armed men who were on motorcycles and who blocked his van, said investigator PO1 Renato Hamor, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Bocobo also lost his $1,000 Minolta camera while his companion in the van, Vidal Delbo, lost a P400 Nokia charger, Hamor said.

The two victims described the suspect as 30-40, of medium build, and armed with handguns, Hamor said.

He said Bocobo and Delbo, with two other persons, where on board a GMA-7 van when the suspects struck at 3:10 p.m. Thursday. Bocobo had just withdrawn P230,000 from the Metrobank branch on Timog Avenue.

The van was on Edsa when the three men blocked its path. Two of the men pulled out their handguns, announced the holdup and took the Minolta camera and the brown envelope containing the cash.

"They also snatched Delbo's handbag, which had her cellular phone charger and some documents," Hamor said.

Slain by 'thrill killer'

A CONSTRUCTION worker was stabbed dead in Las Piñas City on Tuesday night, said police who suspected it was committed by a thrill killer.

Police identified the victim as Jomari Alba, 23, of Las Piñas City, who died from several stab wounds.

Alba's unidentified assailant escaped.

Investigation showed that the attack happened at 6:15 p.m. in a dark portion of St. Louie subdivision.

SPO1 Willie Dalawangbayan, Las Piñas police homicide investigator, said Alba was on his way home walking when the man approached and stabbed him without any provocation. After the stabbing, the unidentified man just walked away, he added.

Dalawangbayan said Alba could be a victim of thrill killing.

Alba's body was brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City for autopsy.

Nelson F. Flores

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 1, 2001
21st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *1 Thes 4:9-11*
Gospel: *Mt 25:14-30*

Jesus told this parable to his disciples, "Imagine someone who, before going abroad, summoned his servants to entrust his property to them. He gave five talents of silver to one, then two to another, and one to a third, each one according to his ability; and he went away.

He who received five talents went at once to do business with the money and gained another five. The one who received two did the same and gained another two. But the one with one talent dug a hole and hid his master's money.

After a long time, the master of those servants returned and asked for a reckoning. The one who received five talents came with another five talents, saying: 'Lord, you entrusted me with five talents, but see I have gained five more with them.'The master answered: 'Very well, good and faithful servant, since you have been faithful in a few things, I will entrust you with much more. Come and share the joy of your master.'

Then the one who had two talents came and said: 'Lord, you entrusted me with two talents; I have two more which I gained with them." The master said: 'Well, good and faithful servant, since you have been faithful in little things, I will entrust you with much more. Come and share the joy of your master.'

Finally, the one who had received a talent came and said: 'Master, I know that you are an exacting man. You reap what you have not sown and gather what you have not invested. I was afraid, so I hid your money in the ground. Here, take what is yours.' But his master replied: 'Wicked and worthless servant, you know that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not invested. Then you should have deposited my money in the bank, and you would have given it back to me with interest on my return.

Therefore, take the talent from him, and give it to the one who has ten. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who are unproductive, even what they have will be taken from them. As for that useless servant, throw him out into the dark where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Commentary:

This beautiful and profound parable illustrates the words of Jesus, "to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away." These words of Jesus appear in all Synoptic Gospels and most probably go back to actual words expressed by Jesus during his ministry. Matthew adds his own explanation that everyone who received, received according to their ability. The point is that God's infinite goodness and wisdom go beyond human understanding and are not to be questioned. Every person is invited to work in faith according to their ability along with the gracious gifts of God. The parable forms a sharp attack against human arrogance and invites us to live in faithful service.

Father, we thank you for the gift of life. Grant that we may recognize your wisdom and use our lives to grow in love and humble service.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Compulsory counterclaim—A compulsory counterclaim is one which, being cognizable by the regular courts of justice, arises out of or is connected with the transaction or occurrence constituting the subject matter of the opposing party's claim and does not require for its adjudication the presence of third parties of whom the court cannot acquire jurisdiction. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Third Division, Alday v. FGU Insurance Corporation, G.R. No. 138822, January 23, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Which is worse: Being inept or corrupt?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

CONSTRUCTION magnate Reghis Romero cannot be faulted for saying he would no longer heed the summons of the House defense committee which is looking into allegations that the military had colluded with the Moro kidnappers in the Lamitan, Basilan incident. The bandit group Abu Sayyaf mysteriously escaped with their hostages while they were fully surrounded by government troops.

Romero, his girlfriend and a child allegedly escaped from their kidnappers while they were holed up inside the Jose Torres Memorial Hospital. There were persistent reports that Romero paid ransom to the kidnappers.

The former owner of the Manila Times had the impression that he would testify on what he knew about the Lamitan incident. He ended up being investigated by the committee members.

* * *

So what if Romero paid ransom to his kidnappers? It was his money, not the government's.

Was it a crime to violate the government's no-ransom policy when the people who were supposed to rescue them were either bungling idiots or in cahoots with the kidnappers?

"What we're fighting here is the Abu Sayyaf, not the hostages," he said. "But it seems we (the victims) are the ones being investigated."

* * *

Committee members of both the Senate and House of Representatives should be reminded of proper decorum toward witnesses or persons who are the subject of an investigation.

The honorable senators and congressmen should bear in mind they are investigating those persons in aid of legislation and nothing else. The aim is to plug loopholes in the present laws or to possibly pass laws to cover some irregularities.

They should not adopt the "holier than thou" attitude because they're no better than the people they're investigating. Besides, they're not judges in a court of law.

* * *

If Romero said he never paid ransom to his kidnappers, the congressmen should have taken his testimony at face value.

They should not have contradicted him and made it appear that he was lying.

***Bakit, pera ba ninyo yung ipinambayad ng* ransom?**

* * *

I tend to believe, though, that Romero paid ransom to the kidnappers through an intermediary.

Don't ask me who the intermediary was because it would be libelous if I mentioned his name.

But here's a hint to his identity: He was active in the negotiation last year for the release of the Sipadan hostages in Sulu. He got a big chunk of the ransom money.

* * *

OK, Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, parish priest of Lamitan, was wrong: Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, who was the commander on the ground during the Lamitan stand-off, did not receive money from the kidnappers for their escape.

If he was not colluding with the kidnappers, then he was *tanga* because the kidnappers escaped even when they were surrounded.

Which is worse, being corrupt or incompetent?

* * *

Beleaguered Sen. Panfilo Lacson questioned the return of Col. Victor Corpus, his nemesis, to the Armed Forces after he was convicted of rebellion.

That's always the tack Lacson takes when his fingers are stuck inside the cookie jar. He doesn't answer the issue against him; instead he accuses his accuser of wrongdoing.

He resorted to the same tack against a female reporter of ABS-CBN who interviewed his former hit man, Francisco "Kit" Mateo. Mateo, who was dying of cancer, confessed to the reporter the crimes he had committed allegedly on orders of Lacson.

Instead of denying Mateo's allegations, Lacson accused the reporter of being a paid hack. His accusations fell flat; the reporter's interview with Mateo was aboveboard.

* * *

The neophyte senator got a scolding from another neophyte but much more intelligent colleague, Joker Arroyo.

Arroyo lectured Lacson to ask questions on "policy matters" and not on the operational aspects of the Department of National Defense. Lacson was trying to corner Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes on the operations of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) which Corpus heads.

***Sige,* Senator Arroyo *pagalitan mo pa ang abusadong senador na yan*!**

Now we know why Lacson, after being kicked out as Philippine National Police chief, ran for the Senate. He wants to be in power so he can continue his abusive behavior.

* * *

Dismissed Social Security Administration chair Vitaliano Nanagas has accused former SSS administrator and president Carlos "Chucki" Arellano of graft for having bought the controlling shares in the PCI Bank at a premium of about 21 percent over the market shares sometime in May 1999.

Nanagas claims the SSS lost a fortune when Arellano bought into the PCI Bank because the market collapsed later. He said the shares were bought at a very high cost.

But my friends in the stock market said any premium paid for control in PCIB was much lower than the premium paid for the acquisition of control of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) by Manny Pangilinan and the acquisition of the controlling stock in San Miguel.

Arellano said he thought he was doing the SSS and its members a favor when he bought into the PCI Bank. He thought then that the stocks would go up.

But he has since been overtaken by circumstances like the economic crisis.

Why fault a guy who did what he did in good faith?

3 suicides in 3 cities

ANTHONY P. Gonzales, 23, killed himself in his rented room in Quezon City yesterday morning.

Gonzales, who rented a room in Bahay Toro, Project 8, Quezon City, committed suicide by slashing his wrist and hanging himself, said investigator SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Gonzales' roommate Rolando L. Matel found Gonzales dead in his room on the second floor of the boarding house at 7:10 a.m. yesterday.

On Thursday, Joven Alcaraz, 34, of Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City, jumped off a bridge into the Pasig River.

Police said his body was fished out of the river about 1 p.m. on Thursday only minutes after he took the plunge from the Mariwasa Bridge in Barangay Rosario in Pasig.

Alcaraz left his house on Thursday morning and did not tell anybody where he was headed, said PO1 Norman Barcellano.

When Alcaraz failed to return home yesterday, his uncle Eduardo Alya, 49, reported him missing to police.

At the police station, Alya was told the body of a man was fished out of the Pasig River. Alya identified the body of Alcaraz at the Pasig General Hospital.

Also on Thusday, Jonathan Cruz, 27, hanged himself in his house in Barangay San Agustin, Malabon.

Cruz's sister Carolyn found Cruz dead about 9 p.m. Thursday, said PO2 Christopher Rodriguez.

She told police she went to check on her brother who had been very quiet that evening. ***Philip C. Tubeza, Agnes Donato, Christian V. Esguerra***

Another . . .

(From page A23)

two men. But one of the men shot him in the chest then fled toward Lotus Street on board a tricycle with no plate numbers, police said.

Two of the holdup men's accomplices were in the tricycle, which was parked near the holdup scene, police said.

Peregrino brought Ferry to the Far Eastern University Hospital in Fairview. But Ferry was declared dead on arrival about 1:30 a.m. yesterday.

His body was later transferred to the Ilagan Funeral Homes for an autopsy.

Cell phone snatching has become rampant in Metro Manila, according to the Philippine National Police, which has recorded 522 cases of cell phone theft nationwide.

Police said the statistics of cell phone snatching victims could be more than the cases reported, as most of the victims do not bother to report the theft.

Police have also identified at least 13 syndicates specializing in cell phone snatching after the arrest of several suspects and the recovery of 288 stolen cell phones from thieves and fences during police operations nationwide.

Earlier, three of the country's major cell phone service providers signed a memorandum of agreement on blocking in their networks the use of stolen cell phones.

Under the agreement, Globe Telecom, Isla Communication Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. will prevent the use of stolen cell phones in their networks by tracing the stolen handsets through their international mobile equipment identification.

Talent manager arrested for pimping

By Jerome Aning

MEMBERS of the Western Police District on Tuesday arrested a talent manager in Tondo, Manila who was accused of pimping her 17-year-old recruit to foreign tourists.

Joy Enriquez, 28, manager of the Henessey Collection talent firm, was arrested by WPD women and children's desk agents at her residence. She was charged with prostitution and violation of the Anti-Child Abuse law.

Supt. Araceli Holofena, WCD chief, said Enriquez was accused by a young woman, a resident of Maypajo, Caloocan City, of "selling" her twice this month to foreigners who were on a "sex tour" in Manila.

The victim said Enriquez recruited her and others a few weeks ago and found work for them as dancers and guest relations officers in four nightclubs in Manila and Pasay City.

But after a few days, Enriquez allegedly began to order her to give sexual services to Chinese and Japanese clients.

The complainant claimed she and several other young girls were held in Enriquez's apartment. She said she was given P1,000 to P1,500 each time she slept with a foreigner.

She told investigator PO3 Dindi Villegas that on Aug. 26, Enriquez forced her to check in with a Chinese tourist at the Holiday Inn Hotel on United Avenue in Ermita. The suspect told her that the Chinese tourist could help her find work as an entertainer in Japan.

The victim told investigators that the tourist raped her twice. Enriquez fetched her the following day and brought her back to the apartment, the victim said.

URBAN ADVENTURE

Chinatown

BY MARIO CORNEJO

LIVING in the city can get you jaded. It doesn't take long for your life to become a routine, with fixed boundaries that you barely ever cross. Which is why sometimes, you need a little adventure. But there's no need to go out treasure hunting or dragon-slaying. There are places to explore within the boundaries of Metro Manila.

With this in mind, I decided to experiment. I would set aside a day and find an area of the city I would normally not visit, then see what there is to see.

And for my first urban adventure, I chose one of the most exotic sites in Metro Manila.

Chinatown.

This area of Binondo, centered on Ongpin Street, has achieved almost mythical status. Settled by Chinese immigrants almost a century ago, the community is now a fusion of different cultures and influences.

Fortunately, I didn't have to go exploring alone. First, I consulted Armand Sebastian, media consultant to the Mayor of Manila. He was able to put me in touch with Francisco "Kiko" Simon, longtime resident of the area, who would act as my guide and walking letter of introduction. Sebastian also sent his assistant, Bojo Sta. Maria, to walk with us and make sure I didn't get into any trouble or try to rob any banks.

So the three of us set out like the archetypal fantasy adventurers that we were, and went to seek our fortune.

First impressions

The streets of old Manila are narrower than the more recently developed parts of the city. This hearkens to an earlier time, when traffic wasn't so heavy and our country not so heavily populated. While this does cause some inconvenience nowadays, it is a welcome reminder of a bygone era.

Another clue as to the uniqueness of this place is the signage. English and Tagalog signs are side-by-side with others written in Chinese characters.

And of course, there's the general population itself. Looking around, you see that a good number if not the majority of the people walking around are of Chinese heritage.

These telltale signs mark a transition into Binondo, and let you know for sure that you're not in Kansas anymore.

So I parked my car near Binondo Church, also known as the Minor Basilica, leaving it under the watchful eye of the statue of Roman Ongpin himself as I ventured into the street that bears his name.

The street

The streets are incarnate with the resonance of commerce. Vendors hawk all sorts of merchandise, from seafood to exotic herbs. And while sidewalk vending is widespread in all of Chinatown, there is a side street, just off Ongpin, that is too narrow for traffic, and has been a center for street business for decades. The walls in this alley are covered with murals depicting early Chinese community life, with pig-tailed men laboring and trading in the old city. This is Carvajal, and here you'll find pretty much anything you need.

There are fruits of amazing varieties, some that I've never seen in any supermarket. There is a wide array of Chinese delicacies, like black chicken and Chinese hams and sausages. There are crabs and fish and dried seaweed and a whole bunch of stuff that I just plain didn't recognize.

Luckily our guide, Mr. Simon, seemed to know everything and everyone. Vendors and businessmen alike greeted us as we passed, and made us feel very welcome indeed. Instead of being intimidating, the atmosphere was friendly and helpful. If there was an item I was curious about, the person selling it explained what it was and how it was used.

Another popular street attraction is simply known as the Estero. This is a row of eateries right by the creek. In bygone days, this was a bustling area, known for its good and cheap Chinese food. While the Estero's heyday is now past, there are still a few establishments operating out of the same principle of quality food at affordable prices.

Food

We decided to take a break in one of the more popular restaurants in Binondo. The Ongpin Mezzanine is a known hangout of Chinese volunteer firemen. The walls are decorated with pictures of fire-fighting exploits, as well as memorabilia such as old fire helmets and alarms.

This establishment is owned by Jerry Chua, who is a fire chief, barangay chair, businessman and all-around community leader. I took the opportunity to have a cup of tea with him and chew the fat about this extraordinary district.

What struck me most about my conversation with him was his civic pride. Far from just an amalgamation of two famous car models, this phrase actually means something to him. He told us of how Chinese festivals are actually being revived and supported by the city government nowadays, and how the streets are cleaner and more orderly than they used to be.

He recounted the history of the more than 1,000 volunteer Chinese fire fighters, who operate throughout the city without salary and without any funding from the government.

And when we left, he gave us each a present of a large bag of *hopia* from his Eng Bee Tin Bakery, which is famous throughout the country. We protested, though admittedly not too strongly. After all, this stuff is delicious.

But this hospitality and generosity was no isolated event. Perhaps it was the fact that I was traveling with a local legend, but people were thrusting food and gifts at us wherever we went.

Stuff

There is a wealth of shopping options available. I Saw clothing, knick-knacks and gift items. Some of these stores have been owned and operated by the same families for decades.

I spoke to the proprietors of one general merchandise store, who have been in the same business for 50 years, with three generations having manned the cash register.

Another store I entered sold just items for promoting good fortune, and has likewise been doing this for decades. The variety and colors of the lanterns and statues were blinding, and I was relieved to know that such traditions haven't changed.

Then there are the jewelry stores. There is gold everywhere, and at very good prices, too. There is no shortage of styles and designs, enough to fill a dragon's hoard. Unfortunately, we got no freebies from these stores.

Medicine

One fascinating facet of Ongpin is the abundance of Chinese drugstores. These outlets for traditional Chinese medicine also have a long history, and have survived in spite of the spread of more contemporary Western medicine. And you don't need a Sino heritage to partake of this treatment.

Many of these stores have in-house doctors, who diagnose you in a number of ways, usually just by taking your pulse. They then prescribe medicines or treatments like acupuncture, which are all available in the same shop.

While this non-conventional approach to medicine is unorthodox to many, others swear by it. And it can't hurt to try.

Mr. Simon bought a dried seahorse from one of these shops and presented it to me as a gift. When I asked the proprietor what it was for, she hesitated and said I was supposed to soak it in liquor and drink it.

"Yes, but what's it for?" I asked.

She hemmed and hawed again then finally blurted it out. "It's only for men…" she said.

Hmm… Probably for facial hair or something.

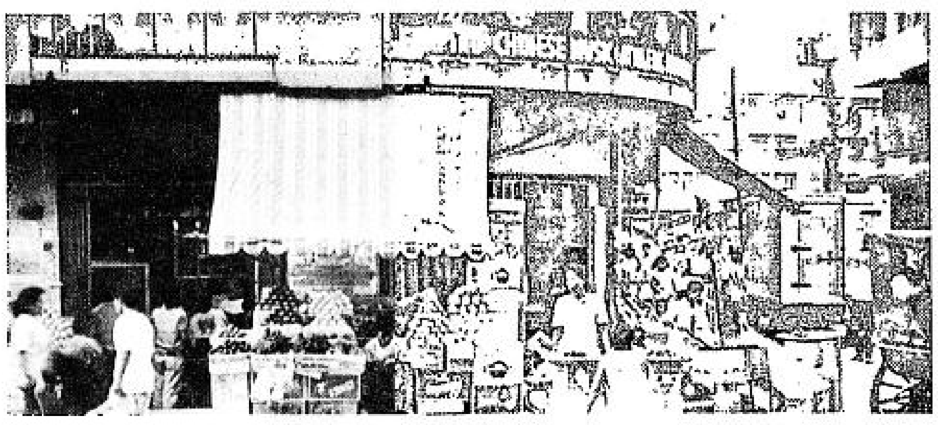
Discovery

Chinatown turned out to be much more welcoming than I ever expected, and a lot safer too. Police visibility was amazing, with a cop pretty much on every corner. And as one cop reminded me, while ethnic Chinese are often a target for kidnapping, there has never been an abduction in the Binondo area itself.

The current economic crisis is affecting this area, and business is not what it once was. Add to that the taste of the majority of the population for air-conditioned shopping malls, and you have one of the worst financial eras in Chinatown's history. But, hopefully, adventuresome people out there will find their way to Binondo, and discover the wealth of culture and trade that it still has to offer.

(E-mail the author at mariocornejo99@yahoo.com)

ARKO NG MABUTING PAKIKISAMA
門 善 親
ARCH OF GOODWILL



WELCOME. Chinatown is friendly and safe, with high police visibility. Business, however, is not what it once was for the district that is going through one of its worst financial periods, for people prefer to shop in cool, huge malls.

'Soldiers' of sewers

OTHER people abhor and look down on their job. But if not for Maynilad's sewerage maintenance crew men who wade through the murky and slimy waters of the city's underground channels, repairing damaged sewers and clearing them of debris, we would have no one to thank for the safe and clog-free sewer network.

Certainly not for the squeamish, the work of a sewer man involves daily exposure to the foul odor of human waste, decomposing food particles and wastewater from household activities.

A regular workday finds them in a Metro Manila manhole with a set of sewer rods and a diaphragm pump, a machine used to de-water and clean sewer manholes. The debris and sand they collect are scooped into sacks that are taken to approved disposal sites.

When cellophane, plastic material, fruit peel, discarded food and even pieces of jewelry become too difficult to remove, the crew men clamber down the manholes, swimming through water 15 feet deep to remove blockages.

The filthy environment poses health risks to the workers. "But we make sure we wear protective suits before we go down the manholes, and we have done away with the old practice of merely rubbing our bodies with grease," says sewerage supervisor Jubett Portes.

Resembling soldiers going off to war when they prepare to enter the sewers, the sewerage personnel don 29-pound helmets made of non-corrosive, rigid fiberglass with a head cushion of nylon and foam. The helmets are equipped with an earphone and a microphone.

They also wear Trelleborg's dry suits that thermally protect the wearer and prevent water from seeping in. The suit has an "umbilical" cord connected to the diving control station. It is the diver's lifeline, providing air supply and a means of communication.

During operations, personnel at the site are required to wear gas masks, gloves, ear muffs, goggles, raincoats and boots. Barricades, warning lights and traffic cones are set up to secure their work area.

Portes says Maynilad intends to further improve its services with the use of new cleaning and inspection equipment that will minimize human exposure to hazardous elements. Workers will eventually be able to observe actual underground conditions through a circuit television inspection system.

The water company conducts annual medical check-ups for its employees, as well as provides them with medical health cards which they can use any time.

NOT squeamish, sewer workers do what other men look down upon.

DENR to revive Taktak

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources vowed to bring Hinulugang Taktak back to life.

The Antipolo City government agreed to work with the

DENR to improve the management of the Hinulugang Taktak National Park.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Antipolo Mayor Angelito Gatbalayan on Wednesday signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to jointly manage the park not just as a recreational area but also as a protected landscape of flora and fauna.

"We hope to revive Hinulugang Taktak and bring it back to its old glory as an eco-tourism park where we can bring our families for picnics," Alvarez said.

"More than just a repository of our rich historical and cultural past, it is also a major part of the biodiversity of Antipolo and the province of Rizal which we must protect," he said.

Under the six-year agreement, the DENR's Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) will co-manage the park with the city government.

They will draw up a comprehensive plan to rehabilitate the park through the active participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other government agencies such as the Department of Tourism (DOT).

PAWB Director Wilfrido Pollisco said the DENR would provide technical assistance to the city government, particularly in monitoring activities in the park, and ensure that these activities are in accordance with the management plan it has drawn up.

The Antipolo government will be in charge of undertaking and overseeing the development of the park in accordance with the DENR management plan, including the allocation of funds for its operations and a massive information campaign on solid waste management and biodiversity conservation.

Hinulugang Taktak was first proclaimed as a recreational area on July 18, 1952 by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 330.

It was upgraded into a national park on Sept. 18, 1990 through Republic Act No. 6964.

On Nov. 17, 2000, the park was proclaimed a protected landscape through Presidential Proclamation No. 412, making Taktak part of the country's protected areas system.

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When walking means giving

By Jerry Esplanada

TOMORROW, rain or shine, more than 3 million Filipinos will walk a few kilometers for a single and worthy cause: raising funds to finance socio-economic projects for the country's more than 13 million needy and underprivileged out-of-school youth.

It is the 29th edition of Alay Lakad, which is held nationwide every first Sunday of September.

This year, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Teofisto Guingona are expected to lead the annual walk-for-a-cause in Metro Manila.

President Macapagal, who chairs the Alay Lakad Foundation Inc.'s council of advisers, headed the body when she was vice president and secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

In Manila, all roads will lead to the Quirino Grandstand at Rizal Park.

"Our request is for Pinoys from all walks of life to participate and help the project," Alfi president Frank Evaristo said. "Everybody's invited."

According to an Alay Lakad report, "this is the time of the year when walking can also mean giving."

"Much of Alay Lakad's success can be attributed to the novel idea behind it, an idea that is unique, practical and conceived out of humanitarian considerations."

The foundation believes that "strengthening the capability of the youth shall subsequently improve the quality of life of the Filipino people in general."

During the past 29 years, Alay Lakad has raised about P40 million in cash donations. The funds went to, among others, more than 800 income-generating projects that benefited more than 50,000 out-of-school youth nationwide.

This year, the project aims to collect at least P2 million in Metro Manila alone, according to Assistant Secretary Celia Yangco of the DSW.

In other key cities, "the annual walk-for-a-cause nets between P500,000 and P800,000," Yangco said.

One of the top contributors to the fund drive is the Armed Forces of the Philippines which donates between P100,000 and P200,000 yearly.

Anti-poverty

To raise more funds, Alfi is issuing commemorative "Magkaisa Bayan" car plates. The plates, which cost P1,500 each, have an 18-month validity, said engineer Rolando Inovero, district governor of Lions Club, one of the foundation's key partners.

"All donations are audited," Inovero said. "We have a financial statement. Alay Lakad is transparent to the public."

This year's Alay Lakad "revolves around the theme 'Sulong Kabataan...Kapitbisig sa Pag-angat ng Kabuhayan' in support of the Macapagal administration's anti-poverty program," according to Alfi executive director Arnold Cesar Romero.

But out-of-school youth or OSY displaced by the recent eruption of Mt. Mayon in Albay and the Mindanao conflict will be the priorities in project fund releases for this year.

"Help to the OSY may come in many forms," Romero explained. "One is to enlist your group to the walk-for-a-cause and join the thousands of Filipinos at the Quirino Grandstand on Sunday. Business establishments, on the other hand, can actually give their donations on the walk day itself. Or they may choose to serve refreshments to the more than 1 million hikers at the Rizal Park."

Evaristo explained that "the idea is for civic-minded citizens in every city and municipality to join a mass hike along prescribed routes. Sponsors are then sought to donate a certain amount, usually one peso for every kilometer covered by a hike participant. Funds raised are then used to finance socio-economic projects intended for out-of-school youth."

THOUSANDS of people are expected to join the "Alay Lakad" in Metro Manila this year, like the multitude that gathered at Rizal Park in 1997. Last year, then-Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was the Alay Lakad chair.

Imelda's pet

The projects also include skills and leadership training programs and cultural activities.

Some of the most successful Alay Lakad projects include candle-making in Cainta, Rizal; T-shirt printing in Quezon City; hog raising in barangays Sugcad and Ubaliw. in Polangui, Albay; and a mini-*carinderia* in Navotas, Metro Manila.

The foundation's training programs were conducted in partnership with the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, AFP-Commel, and the Laura Vicuna Technology Center in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

For two years now, Alay Lakad has been providing financial assistance to children of fisherfolk belonging to the Calariz Alliance, an association of fishermen from Cavite, Laguna and Rizal.

Alay Lakad began in 1972 when the then Department of Social Welfare conceived a walk-for-a-cause project in Metro Manila in coordination with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

In 1973, then First Lady Imelda Marcos made Alay Lakad one of her pet projects. The following year, the late President Ferdinand Marcos issued Presidential Proclamation No. 1267 which declared every third Sunday of June each year as "Alay Lakad para sa Kabataan Day."

Alay Lakad was registered in December 1975 with the Securities and Exchange Commission as Alay Lakad Inc.

In September 1986, then-President Corazon Aquino signed Proclamation No. 27, moving the annual walk-for-a-cause to the first Sunday of September each year.

Working together

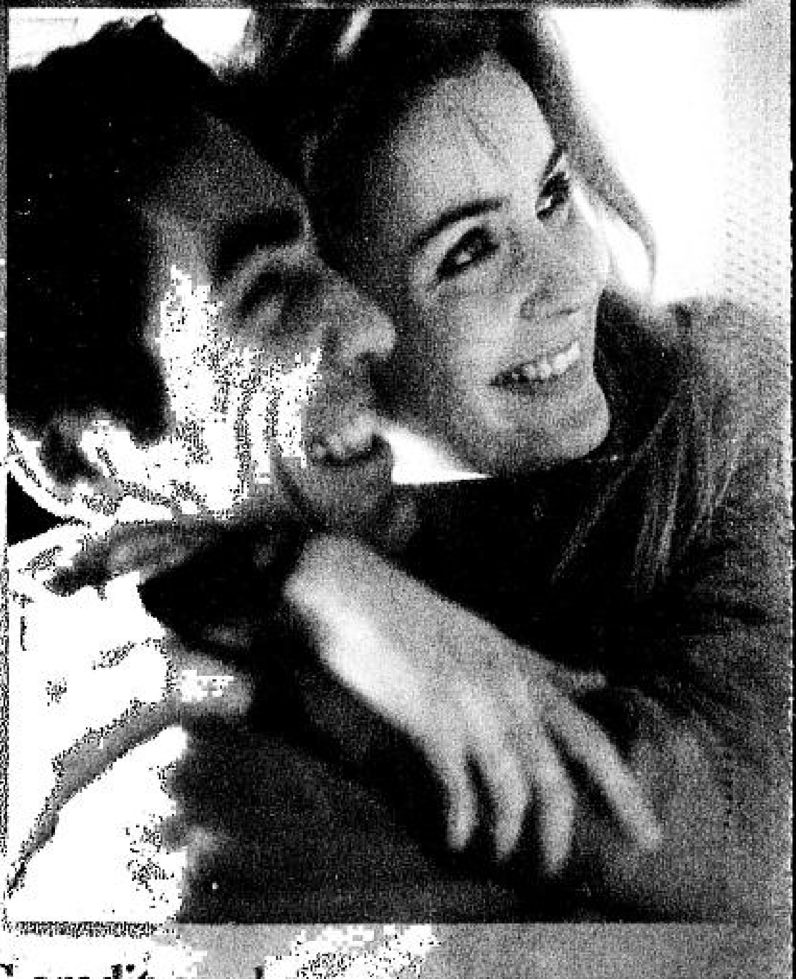
For a so-called "Imelda Marcos pet project" to survive several administrations is a "good manifestation that government and an NGO can work together for a common and worthy cause," Evaristo told the INQUIRER.

Alay Lakad has no political color, according to him and Inovero.

The state considers OSY a neglected sub-sector of the larger youth sector. OSY are those aged 15 to 24 who are neither studying nor working and have no source of gainful or formal employment.

In 1998, the country's OSY population was estimated to have reached 12.7 million.

"The sad fact is, out of 100 children who enter Grade 1, only 65 finish elementary school," said an Alfi report. "If all of them enter first year high school, only 47 will eventually finish their secondary education. This would mean that by age 15, around 50 percent of the youth are likely to be out of school."



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Hello, Billy, where's Grasya?

(From page A23)

sion commercials. Not even the *wa-is* (wise) Lumen of Surf soap fame comes close.

Already the subject of lurid text jokes and arguably the current object of desire of Filipino males, Grasya continues to haunt the imagination of the public and in turn be hounded by controversy.

Grasya, as played by 23-year-old half-Filipino, half-Norwegian Gina Celso, has since become the subject of a full-blown news story on primetime TV and an item in an entertainment column for her alleged dalliance with newly elected Sen. Ralph Recto.

But the TV network retracted the story after Recto and Celso's Philippine agents denied it, and after the advertiser took offense to what they called the news program's irresponsible handling of the report and the use of footage from the TV ad.

On Wednesday, the Grasya issue took a strange turn when one of the Metro editors received a call that Grasya had been kidnapped for ransom.

Drop-off place

The caller, a woman, said the kidnappers were asking Grasya's family a P15-million ransom. A video of Grasya being raped by one of the kidnappers was sent with the ransom demand, the caller said. The drop-off point of the ransom was supposed to be an address at ritzy Forbes Park in Makati, the caller added.

Perhaps to bolster her credibility, the caller said her source was a sister of a member of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in charge of operations to rescue Grasya.

Even for jaded editors, it was difficult to suspend belief when confronted with sleazy details that read like the bad script of a cheap Hollywood thriller.

A Metro reporter was sent to the supposed drop-off point of the ransom money. But he came back, panting, to report that the drop-off was negative.

More calls were made to various sources, but no Grasya kidnapping had been reported.

Meanwhile, speculations on this latest Grasya caper ran wild at the Metro desk.

Isn't Grasya an Araneta who just flew in from the United States? Did she really break up the marriage of Lipa mayor and award-laden actress Vilma Santos and husband Sen. Ralph Recto? Isn't Billy a closet queen and would be jilting Joey if he married Grasya?

Reality bites

A few more quick calls eventually revealed a reality that truly bites.

"No, Grasya is alive and happy and living in Norway," said a PLDT executive. "She was not kidnapped."

"Are you asking confirmation if Grasya was gang-raped?" said another industry insider.

Duh.

As it turned out, Grasya's gang rape was the recent text joke circulating on cell phones nationwide. And her kidnap was the latest bizarre twist in a convoluted plot that an advertising campaign jump-started.

Like the PLDT commercial, now on its fifth series and running for more than a year, Grasya has taken a life of her own and apparently, there's no loosening her tenacious hold on market awareness. But increased PLDT IDD calls to the US would be the real measure of the ad's success.

Nobody

Before she was transformed into Grasya and her face shown in the current TV ad, Celso was a nobody who has auditioned and nearly made it for several local shampoo commercials, according to her local talent agency X'pose. Her talent fee for the Grasya role was nowhere near the staggering millions a Donita Rose or an Aga Mulach received for their various product endorsements, said a talent caster who did not want to be named.

But before Celso, there were also two other Grasyas—talk show host Karen Borja of San Fernando Valley in California, and model Cecil Tanjutco. But various focus group discussions (FGDs) on the storyboards of the Billy TV commercials were said to have shown that Borja and Tanjutco would not be acceptable to the audience as the Grasya whom Billy brought home to Mama. The FGDs, however, showed Celso as the perfect Grasya.

"We were really looking for an Amerasian or Eurasian girl to play Grasya," said the advertising executive responsible for the TV ad. "And Celso was perfect for the role."

Pierced

Also before she became Grasya, Celso was a piercing aficionado and up to now has a Web page about piercing.

Here's what's on the website about Celso:

Gina G. Celso, born at Ulleval hospital on Nov. 23, 1978.

"Mom is from Norway, and Dad is from the Philippines (…a proper 'street-mix'). I grew up in Sandvika in Baerum, and have lived there since. I live together with 10 pets, one of which is a human and is named Vidar. The others are around 3 years old. I have snakes, lizards, parrots and a cute little spider called Mister Ed. What I want now is a silk-monkey (…that's an animal, and not a Baerum-inhabitant), but the Baerum police chamber is not too enthusiastic over the zoo as I am. My friends call our apartment for Sandvika Zoo, so that's not exactly a secret (…have to remember to get a sign up on the door). Mom is also a bit crazy when it comes to holes in the ears and stuff, so I had my first ones when I was just 2 months old. I started getting interested in piercing already in children's school, when I saw the punks from Blitz. I was fascinated with both piercing and tattoos the minute I saw (them). I've never been much of a drawer, so piercing it was, then.

"I put a lot of rings and stuff in the ears, and also tried with a ring in the underarm. The last wasn't exactly what I'd call a success. Piercing is heritable in my family. Mom had a 'Madison,' uncle has a barbell in his tongue, and all my cousins have piercings everywhere. I've always read everything that has to do with piercing and tattooing. I started as a piercing apprentice in Sandviken. When that closed, I was hired full time at OPS. The rest is history…"

GINA Celso as piercing aficionado on the Web page.

TONITE @ 8:30!
Who ever said "The King" was dead!?!
ROCK RULEZ
This show proves he not only Rocks!... he Rulez!
You gotta see it to believe it!
The animated King also cranks out some great videos!...
Rap core, punk, grunge, nu metal, nu rock, nu sound...
...NEW EPISODE EVERY THURSDAY @ 8:30 PM
ALSO AIRS THURSDAYS @ 11:30 PM & FRIDAYS @ 3:00 PM
ONLY ON...
UHF CH. 37
HOME CABLE CH. 59, DESTINY CABLE CH. 59
SKY - call customer service 636.7591
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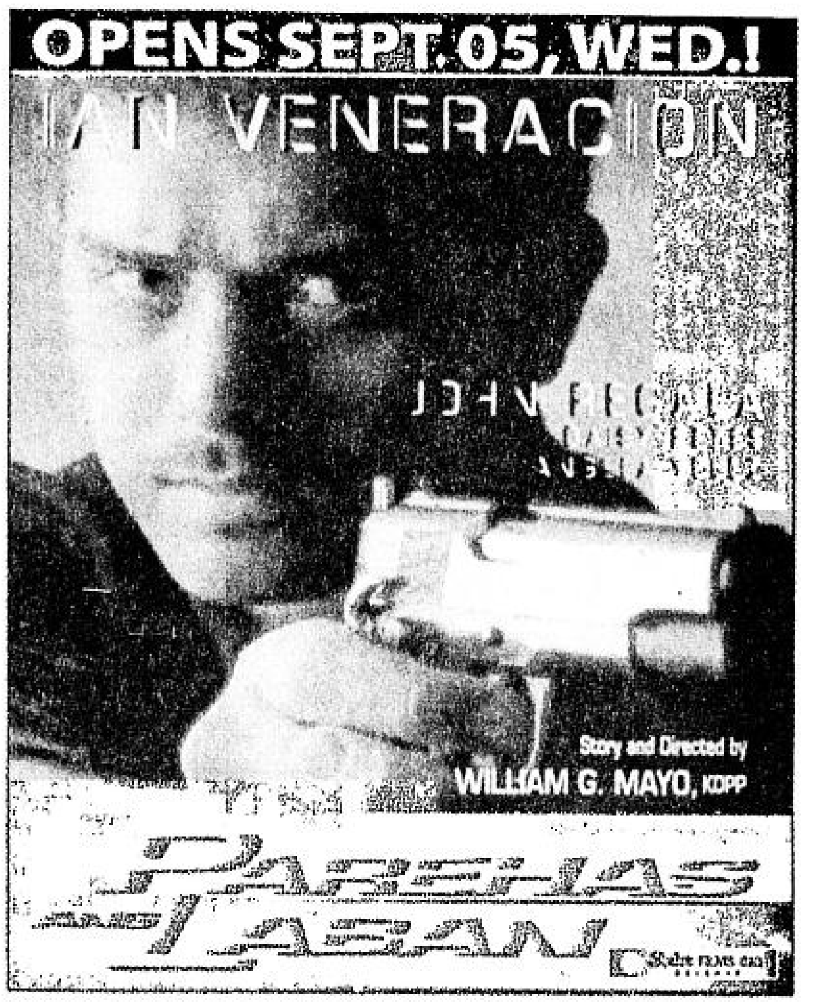

OPENS SEPT.05, WED.!
IAN VENERACION
Story and Directed by
WILLIAM G. MAYO, KDPP
PAREHAS LABAN

Mercedes
Mercedes-Benz
CATS MOTORS, INC.
We've got it all for you!
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2274 Series of 2001
LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	SHREK
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	IRA
8	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522-7169416

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
3	PLANET OF THE APES
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	ANIMAL
7	SHREK
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	SEX MEDUSA
10	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350149

1	SEX EDUCATION
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	RADYO
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	SHREK
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
10	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
11	SEX MEDUSA
12	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	SHREK
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	ANIMAL
6	MOULIN ROUGE
7	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
8	SEX MEDUSA
9	RUSH HOUR 2
10	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
11	RUSH HOUR 2
12	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	SHREK
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	ANIMAL
7	SEX EDUCATION
8	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	RUSH HOUR 2
11	SEX MEDUSA
12	RADYO

SM TUTUBAN 2514302

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	SEX MEDUSA
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	SHREK
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	PLANET OF THE APES
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	MOULIN ROUGE
10	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
11	RADYO
12	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL

SM SOUTHMALL 8066688

1	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
2	SEX MEDUSA
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	SHREK
5	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
6	BROTHERHOOD
7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	RUSH HOUR 2
10	SEX EDUCATION

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8828905

1	SEX EDUCATION
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RUSH HOUR 2

SM CEBU 2313816

1	SHREK
2	ANIMAL
3	ONE NIGHT AT MCCOOLS
4	KAMASUTRA 2001
5	VENUS
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	PLANET OF THE APES

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	RADYO
2	CLOSED
3	SHREK
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	ANIMAL
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	CLOSED
8	CATS & DOGS

SM PAMPANGA 7120015

1	SHREK
2	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM SUCAT 8294915

1	SHREK
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

SM DAVAO

1
2
3
4
5
6

SOON TO OPEN
6 STATE-OF-THE-ART
MOVIE THEATERS

dts DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

AYALA CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24-HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS 729 - 7777
reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

All Digital Sound

GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR2
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

GLORIETTA 4

1	SHREK in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2 in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	RUSH HOUR 2 THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	PLANET OF THE APES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	RUSH HOUR 2 in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	XIU XIU: THE SENT DOWN GIRL (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

Art Film

GREENBELT

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2 in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SHREK in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NEVERA LIVE! AUG. 30, 31 & SEPT. 1 - 9PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	RUSH HOUR 2 THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2 in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	SHREK in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	PLANET OF THE APES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
2 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
3 (DTS)	SHREK
4 GOLD (DTS)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	MOULIN ROUGE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
8 [illegible]	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
9 [illegible]	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10 [illegible]	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	
3 (DTS)	BROTHERHOOD
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2 (DTS)	SEX EDUCATION
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Masagana CINEMA 4-5-6-7-8
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	SEX EDUCATION

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	IRA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
5	SEX EDUCATION

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	SEX EDUCATION
3	SEX MEDUSA
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	IRA
6	RUSH HOUR 2
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7053152 - 55
OPENS SEPT. 5, 2001
A.I. (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	COOL DUDE
2	FINAL FANTASY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	BROTHERHOOD
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
A	SEX EDUCATION

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	SEX EDUCATION
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8508

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DTS)	SHREK
8 (SDDS)	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
9 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
5	SEX MEDUSA
6 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
7 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
9	VENUS

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	VENUS
5 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	KAMASUTRA 3
Lords	KABIYAK
Jennet	RESERVE

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	SHREK
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	MOULIN ROUGE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	SEX EDUCATION

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	SEX MEDUSA
3	SEX EDUCATION

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	SEX MEDUSA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
2 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DOLBY)	SHREK
4	BROTHERHOOD

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DOLBY)	SHREK
3 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
4	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	TOM CATS
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	SEX EDUCATION
3	BEDROOM SECRET
4 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BROTHERHOOD
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	SHREK
4	IRA
5	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	IRA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	SHREK
3	IRA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANINN
3	IRA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
3	SHREK

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	IRA
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	IRA
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
3	COOL DUDES
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	CRAZY BEAUTIFUL
4 (DTS ES)	PLANET OF THE APES

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

Sneak Preview
"KNIGHTS TALE"
(Columbia Pictures)
Starring:
HEATH LEDGER & SHANNYN SOSSAMON
On September 3 & 4, 2001
(Monday & Tuesday)
At the following theatres:
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Festival, Waltermart, Pavilion and Lianas Calamba

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1 THX	RUSH HOUR 2
2	SHREK
3	BRIDGIT JONE'S DIARY
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	MOULIN ROUGE
8	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
3	SHREK
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
7	PLANET OF THE APES

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVED
2	SHREK
3	RESERVED
4	SHREK
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	PLANET OF THE APES

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	PLANET OF THE APES
4	SHREK
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	ANIMAL
3	MOULIN ROUGE
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	COOL DUDES
6	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

SOON TO OPEN
METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	RADYO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SHREK
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BROTHERHOOD
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SEX EDUCATION
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ARAY/ OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
ODEON	RUSH HOUR 2
ODEON-2	SEX EDUCATION
ROBEN	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
TANDEM-1	TURN ON
TANDEM-2	PARU PARONG LIGAW
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	RUSH HOUR 2
QUEZON-1	RUSH HOUR 2
REMAR	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
REMAR-2	SEX EDUCATION
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-2	JAPAN ANIME' FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-3	RADYO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BROTHERHOOD
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-7	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
CINEMA-8	IRA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SHREK
CINEMA-12	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-14	SCREAM
CINEMA-15	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
CINEMA-2	SHREK
CINEMA-3	SHREK
CINEMA-4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-5	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-6	PLANET OF THE APES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	FIGHTING BACK
CINEMA-2	SAMBAHIN ANG PURI KO
CINEMA-4	HAYOP SA GANDA

Youth dies in arms of friends

By Philip C. Tubeza

LEOPOLDO A. Palemia Jr., 17, died in the arms of his friends Marvin Ala and Irwin Commandante on Wednesday night in Quezon City after a man shot him with a *sumpak*, a homemade shotgun resembling a steel bar from afar.

Palemia, of Letty Street Group 3 Area B Barangay Payatas, Quezon City died from a single gunshot wound in the chest, said investigator PO3 Diosdado Pedronan, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Palemia was talking with his friends Ala and Commandante about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday near his home when several unidentified men approached the three friends, police said.

One of the men, police said, suddenly pulled out a *sumpak*, pointed it at Palemia and pulled the trigger. Palemia took a bullet in the chest, but his friends rushed him to the General Malvar Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival about 11:20 p.m. Wednesday, police said.

The assailant and his companions fled after the shooting.

Palemia's body was brought to the Philippine National Crime Laboratory for an autopsy.

Police are now trying to get a description of the gunman and his companions from Palemia's friends and other witnesses to the shooting.

Guard rapes 6th grader

By Agnes Donato

POLICE yesterday arrested a school security guard after he was accused of raping a student inside a Pasig City public school last Aug. 23.

Simplicio Cotache, 19, security guard of the Santolan Elementary School and resident of Barangay Ugong in Valenzuela City is now facing rape charges after he allegedly molested a 22-year-old 6th grade student who was said to be a slow learner, according to Insp. Antonio Paulite, chief investigator.

Police said Cotache allegedly raped the girl inside the school clinic after teachers and other students had left the school when classes were suspended due to heavy monsoon rains.

The girl was bathing in the rain in her school uniform when Cotache saw her and called to her to come inside the school clinic where he raped her, police said.

But the girl confided the rape to her classmates who reported it to the school principal.

School authorities reported the rape to police who arrested Cotache while he was resting in one of the school's unused classrooms.

Cotache is now detained at the Pasig police station.

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Documents don't lie, says QC dad

QUEZON CITY Councilor Ariel Inton Jr. on Thursday lashed out at officials of the Paref-Northfield School for Boys Inc., on their controversial 50-year, rent-free use of a 3.1-hectare public lot in Greenmeadows III subdivision.

"Documents don't lie," Inton said. "Most of the claims made by Paref-Northfield are not corroborated by official documents that were obtained during a public dialogue."

In a half-page paid advertisement which appeared in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on Aug. 29, officials of the Parents for Education Foundation Inc. (Paref) claimed that the memorandum of agreement they signed with former Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. was "aboveboard," and has gone through the entire approval process before it was ratified by the city council and submitted to the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Inton said while he respected Paref's right to explain its side, most of the foundation's claims could not be verified based on official documents which the Quezon City Council's committee on Justice and Human Rights obtained during a public dialogue on Aug. 13.

Inton, a councilor of the city's 4th district, questioned whether it was legal for Mathay to dispose, through the grant of a special privilege to a private enterprise, vast public-owned land reserved by law for public, and not private, use.

He said PD 957 allows the construction of a public school on the 3.1-hectare government-owned open space, but not a private school which shall make millions in revenues from its operations.

"How can it be legal for a private enterprise, such as Paref-Northfield School for Boys, to use for free a government-owned property as it makes millions in revenues from its operations?" Inton asked. "And instead of paying the city government for its private use of public property, Paref-Northfield, under the MOA, obligates the city government to pay 25 percent of the assessed value of its buildings and facilities at the end of the agreement."

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BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	MOULIN ROUGE - P 13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	PLANET OF HE APES - P 13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

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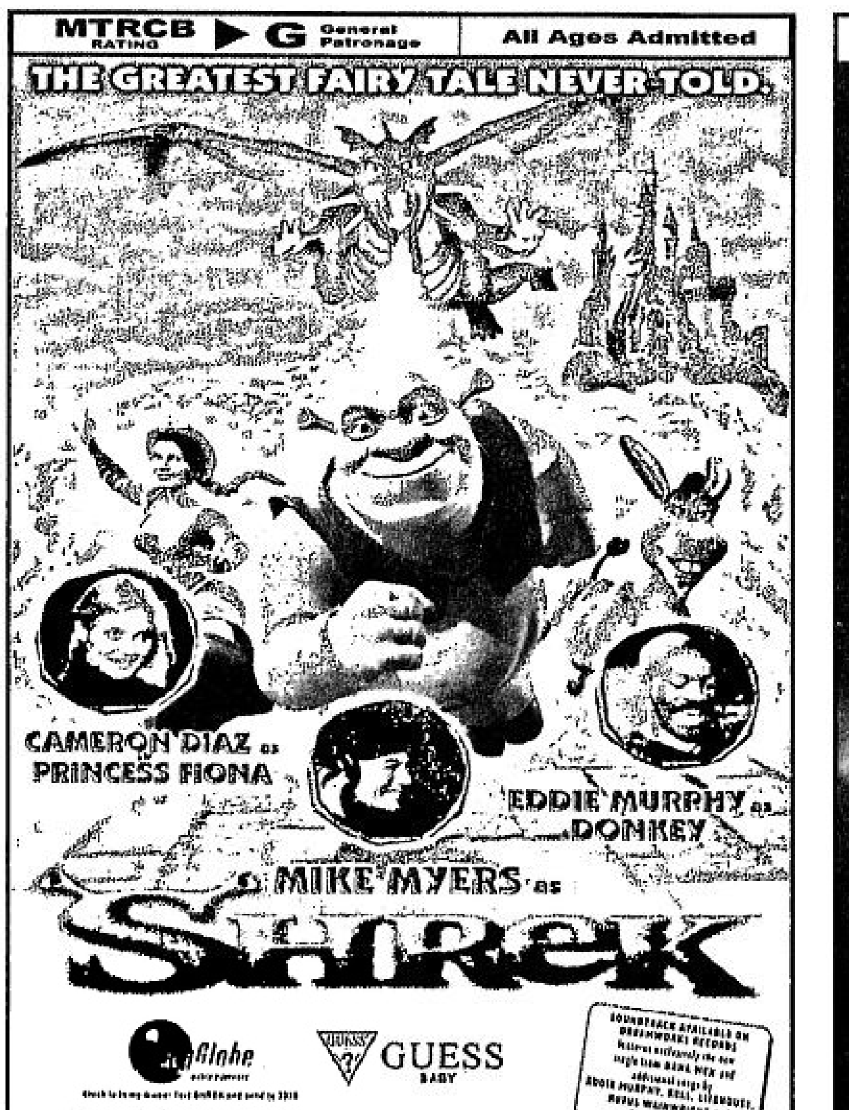
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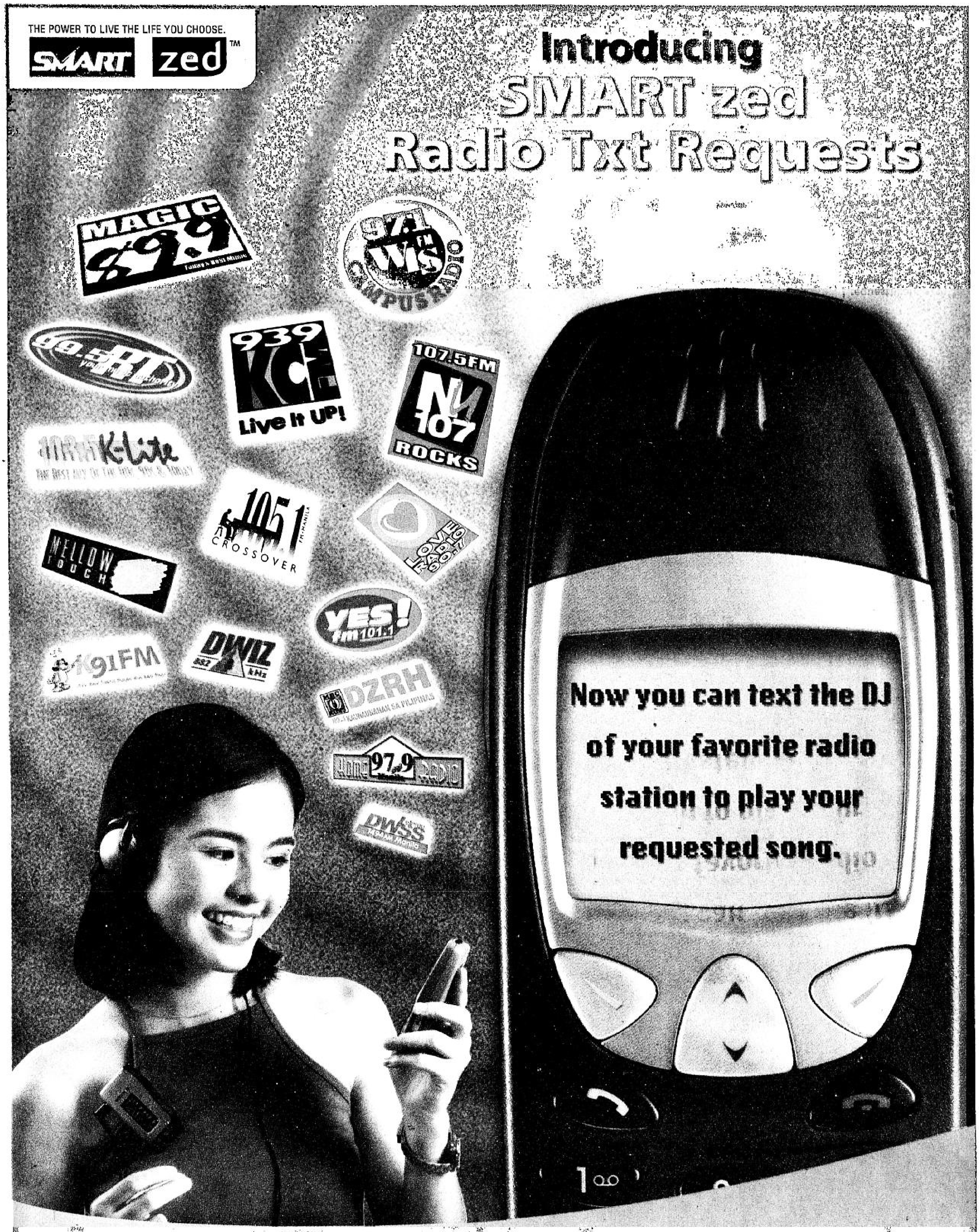
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Gov't OKs exemption from BIR order

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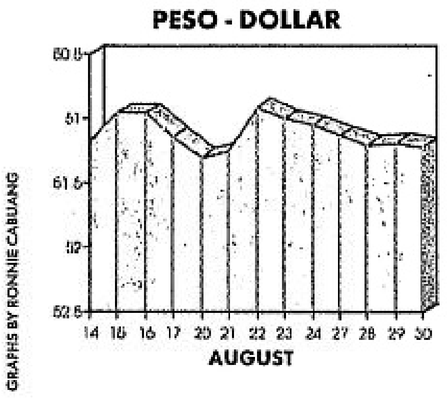

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As of 5 p.m.,
August 31, 2001

¥118.92 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
August 31, 2001

GOLD:$275.40/275.90

per ounce Hong Kong,
August 31, 2001

Shares up

SHARES clawed back from fresh 10-month lows to end marginally higher yesterday following late bargain hunting in select blue chips Ayala Land Inc. and Manila Electric Co B-shares.

Apart from bargain hunting, month-end window dressing by some funds, which still have holdings in the battered Philippine market may have contributed to the market's firmer close, traders said.

The main index edged up 2.53 points, or 0.20 percent, to end at 1,265.44 points after hitting 1,254.41 points, the lowest since October last year.

The index traded in a tight range of only about 11 points during the session. For the week, the market was down 1.6 percent, or 20.63 points. *Reuters*

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue have exempted entertainers and professional athletes earning P720,000 and below a year from an order doubling their withholding taxes.

A finance official said the two agencies have also agreed to postpone the implementation of the order by at least a month. The government will start imposing the new withholding tax rate on higher-earning entertainers and athletes in October instead of September as earlier planned.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said the order was amended and a threshold was set so that the lower-earning members of the entertainment and sports industries would be spared from paying higher withholding taxes, which would only be refunded at the end of the year. This will also save the BIR the effort, money and time spent in processing tax refund requests.

Prior to the amendment, the order covered all entertainers earning P140,000 and above.

"We are trying to avoid a situation wherein those earning below the threshold will have to seek a refund. So we decided to implement the higher withholding tax only on those earning above the threshold," said Camacho.

The DOF approved last month BIR Regulation No. 6, increasing from 10 percent to 20 percent the withholding taxes on entertainers and professional athletes beginning Sept.

PETITION
Steph

Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison explained that the threshold was set after the DOF reviewed the salary structures of certain members of these industries.

"What we have done is already very reasonable. However, some people will still find reasons to complain," Camacho said.

BIR Revenue Regulation No. 6 identified the following as professional entertainers: actors and actresses, singers and emcees; professional athletes including basketball players, pelotaris, and jockeys, and all directors involved in movies, stage, radio, television and musical productions.

Subject to withholding taxes are fees, per diems, allowances and other forms of income payments.

"In the case of professional entertainers, athletes, and all recipients of talent fees, the amount subject to withholding taxes should also include the amount paid to them for the use of their names in pictures or in print," according to the BIR regulation.

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Get their ax together

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ALL is not well in that government outfit which could sack its own boss. Of course I am talking about the Social Security System.

Is there anything like the SSS? Usually, the boss fires out people. Employees of the SSS choose their boss. Who knows, soon, they might set their salaries. There's hope.

Before the boss was fired out, from what I gathered, SSS had set aside P11 million as intelligence fund. This, believe it or not, was never covered by a COA audit.

Anyway, there now seems to be a backlash to the infamous ouster of Vitaliano Nañagas as chair and administrator of the SSS.

I'm not talking about the stir he created among employees of the Development Bank of the Philippines, where he was, er, "transferred" as a compromise.

Rather, eight SSS officers filed a complaint with the Ombudsman against its top executives and its entire board. The officers are said to be among Nañagas' pets.

* * *

DRAGGED into the case were Carlos Arellano, former SSS chair and administrator, and former Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma, who also sat in the SSS board.

It involves the buyout of PCI Bank by the consortium of SSS, GSIS and Equitable Bank from the Gokongwei and the Lopez groups two years ago for P31.9 billion.

The SSS officers said the consortium overpriced the purchase by more than P1 billion. They paid P290 per share for the bank, but the market price was only P250 each.

Simple arithmetic shows that 290 minus 250 equals 40, which is the alleged overprice. Even media (not the INQUIRER) bit their simple arithmetic and headlined it.

Certain dailies even splattered huge photos of Chuckie Arellano and Bien Laguesma all over their frontpages. Over what? Simple arithmetic?

The morons did not know that, in business, people use far higher mathematics than firts grade arithmetic. Apparently they never heard of "premium."

* * *

IN the buyout of any business, more so a major bank like PCIBank, the buyers must pay a premium. Why? Because they are getting the controlling interest, that's why.

For control of PCIBank, the investors paid a premium that was equivalent to a ratio of 1.5 times book value. This, in banking then, even looked like highway robbery.

Just take a look at other deals. Metrobank paid a premium of 2.5 times book value for Solidbank. Bank of PI paid the same ratio as premium for Far East Bank.

Between us girls, Far East Bank was even prepared to bid for PCIBank at P340 per share. At this price, at two times book value, Far East Bank thought it was a steal.

There was no overprice, you morons, because it was the norm. Premium is also a two-way street. If funds like the SSS buy at a premium, they also sell at a premium.

For instance, when the SSS sold its PLDT shares to First Pacific during Chuckie's time, it got a price of P1,250 per share. The market price then was only P800 each.

If anybody complains that this Chuckie sold SSS holdings at a huge premium (i.e. overprice), I will personally remove all his hair one by one. Do your homework, dammit!

* * *

THIS cute administration of Gloriaetta does not want the state-owned Pagcor to operate the jai alai business. It's gambling, and therefore it's immoral.

If that's the case, with the issue being morality, let's stop all kinds of gaming. Horse racing. Lotto. Casinos. Cockfights. Bingo. And even the PBA.

Yes, commissioner, there's massive open gambling even in the basketball games. And it's done at all levels, including collegiate games.

And what are our pretty boys in Congress doing about all that gambling? Nothing. *Ah, basta*, they just don't want the jai alai and the jai alai alone to ever return.

Never mind that the game is much older than all of the others combined. It has been here since the Spanish times. It's much older than "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire."

* * *

ANYWAY, the Supreme Court ruled that Pagcor had the legal right to operate jai alai. It's just that Pagcor must do it, on its own without any partner.

The ruling was a slap on the face for some pretty-boy congressmen who questioned before the Supreme Court the legality of Pagcor's re-opening the jai alai.

But after the court used their argument to mop the floor, the pretty boys changed their minds. It was not a legal question *pala*, and it was one of morality. *Ay mali*!

It's all so hypocritical, I feel like dislodging what I ate for breakfast right now right at their faces. Morality, my foot!

Did you ever wonder why, of the many politicos in this country, only a few congressmen make noises about the jai alai, and they all come from the south? Me, too!

Apparently, they are the only ones who want to get their ax together to stop Pagcor from operating jai alai at all costs. Why?

* * *

FOR it's disturbing that the south is famous for the illegal gambling called "masiao." And the pretty boys even had the nerve to argue that jai alai would only build up masiao.

Not true, said Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña on television recently. He insists that Pagcor's legitimate jai alai could only compete against the masiao operators.

Even without Pagcor's jai alai, a fake version of it is aired over the radio in the south, complete with sound effects, as if there's actually a game going on.

There's also the so-called "bolalai," in which 10 numbers are drawn, simulating the special event of the legitimate jai alai.

What do you think those are for—hobby? Like it or not, gambling exists. If only because it competes against the underworld, I want Pagcor to succeed.

Half of its gross winnings will automatically go to the national treasury. If it can steal the business from gambling syndicates, there will be more funds for infrastructure.

As I have been saying, if not from gaming, where do you think countries like Malaysia, Australia and Italy get their money for their impressive infrastructure.

Not from pretty boy congressmen, that's for sure.

SPI clinches outsourcing deal

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

SPI Technologies Inc. has bagged an outsourcing contract with the US-based LexisNexis group, a global provider of information to legal, corporate, government and academic markets.

In a disclosure yesterday to the Philippine Stock Exchange, SPI chief financial officer Francisco Suarez Jr. said SPI signed a two-year contract with LexisNexis Risk Solutions, a division of the group that provides fraud, business due diligence and risk management solutions.

In a separate interview, SPI investor relations officer Leny Salumbre said the new LexisNexis deal would lift SPI's revenues by 10 to 15 percent.

Under its contract with LexisNexis, SPI will be the sole offshore IT partner that will write over a hundred master file maintainer programs that will allow conversion of proprietary tags into extensible mark-up language format.

This is in addition to a software maintenance contract with the LexisNexis group.

"This initiative will enhance the searchability and display functions of Risk Solutions' database of public records. These records are actively utilized by law enforcement agencies, businesses, government and law firms in the United States that require state and country information," SPI said in its disclosure.

It added that the project would be undertaken by SPI's software services unit, one of its five business units that also included content conversion, litigation support, scholarly publisher services and call center services.

The software services unit is focused on delivering high value-added development and maintenance projects for overseas markets.

The disclosure said a team of software engineers were now undergoing project training and would commence actual work by early July next year.

"This expanded partnership with LexisNexis Risk Solutions further confirms SPI's technical competency in software engineering. We are continuously enhancing our technical skills and methodologies to compete in the outsourced software development market," SPI president Ernest Cu said.

David Rodehaver, Risk Solutions manager for data engineering, said his company found SPI's performance to be "exceptional" during the last 18 months that they had been working on software maintenance.

"This experience provided us with the confidence to make them our sole offshore partner for this project," Rodehaver said.

SPI software services unit Joey Ticzon said: "We demonstrated our ability to provide quality, globally-competitive skill sets in our initial project with LexisNexis. This is evidenced by the growth in software engineers dedicated to them. Starting off with 15 engineers last year, current manpower deployed to the projects reflects a four-fold expansion."

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PACSPORTS Legaspi Village will be open on Sunday Sept. 2

DISCLOSURES

RFM Corp. has denied that **Cosmos Bottling Corp.** would continue to have a P3.6-billion debt even after its sale to **San Miguel Corp.**

* * *

THE Securities and Exchange Commission has approved the amendments in the articles of incorporation to increase the number of directors of **KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc.** from seven to nine.

* * *

AJO.Net Holdings Inc. has amended its articles of incorporation by including in its secondary purpose the trading, buying and selling of all kinds of merchandise.

* * *

JG Summit Holdings Inc. has agreed to guarantee the obligations of **JG Summit Philippines Ltd.** under a term loan facility in the amount of $102.3 million.

* * *

MATSUSHITA Electric Philippines Corp. has announced the resignation of Junichi Sakaguchi as director of the company effective Sept. 30.

* * *

ASIATRUST Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 16, 2 p.m. at the Skytop, Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

* * *

PREMIERE Entertainment Productions Inc. has moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Sept. 19 to Oct. 19, 3 p.m. at the Metropolitan Club, Makati City. Record date is on July 2.

* * *

MEDCO Holdings Inc. has denied having any information that could explain the 39.13-percent decrease in its share price from 23 centavos to 14 centavos each. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, Aug. 31, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	62.5	62.5	61.5	61.5	110,900
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	30.5	30.5	30	30	60,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	201	204	200	204	73,560
Philippine National Bank	53	53.5	53	53.5	135,800
Security Bank Corp.	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	200
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.25	22.25	22.25	22.25	600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	50,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	243	243	243	243	460
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1215	1225	1210	1225	1,310
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33	33	33	33	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	250,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	655	650	650	4,300
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.033	0.034	0.032	0.034	8,800,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.51	0.49	0.51	410,000
Piltel	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	480	487.5	475	485	398,870
Ivantage Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	170,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	49,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	28,800
Manila Electric Co. B	43.5	45	43.5	44.5	704,100
Petron Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.76	3,153,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	650,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.88	1.9	1.88	1.9	1,225,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.28	0.32	0.28	0.32	1,840,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	511,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	50,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	39,000
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	15	15	15	15	15,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	25.5	26	25.5	26	8,400
RFM Corp.	2.14	2.22	2.14	2.22	722,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40.5	40.5	40	40.5	54,700
San Miguel Corp. B	55	55.5	55	55.5	98,100
Universal Robina Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.5	3,618,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	50,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	187,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11.25	11	11.25	1,400
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.83	0.84	1,590,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	28,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.16	0.165	0.16	0.165	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.22	0.22	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.58	1.6	780,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	1,120,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29	29	29	29	49,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.14	1,600,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,100,000
Ipeople Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	15,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	160,000
Medco Holdings	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	400,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.68	500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	4,980,000
Music Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.18	1.18	140,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5	5	5	5	2,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.12	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	310,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	5,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	300,000
Pryce Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13	13	13	13	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	740,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	30,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	16.25	30	16.25	30	5,100
Manila Jockey Club	19	19.25	19	19.25	15,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	120,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	33	33.5	33	33.5	54,400
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	520	520	515	515	320
Globe Tel. A-Warrants	470	470	465	465	126,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	680	680	680	680	250
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	540,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	18,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	40,200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.65	4.7	4.65	4.7	5,046,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	2,160,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.33	0.36	4,890,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	440,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	5,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.82	1.86	1.82	1.86	101,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	730,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,850,000
Primex Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.9	6	4,714,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.055	0.07	0.055	0.07	1,400,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.039	0.04	0.038	0.038	66,700,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.17	2,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	48,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	139,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	11,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	430,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	17,000,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	200,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	140,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	483,030	32,497,375.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	174,910,747	385,691,345.33
PRO	21,396,000	54,777,380.00
Mining	267,330,000	4,043,550.00
OIL	20,340,000	109,200.00
GRAND TOTALS:	484,474,777	477,161,850.33

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	525.91	DOWN 2.73
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,790.18	UP 2.90
PRO	486.30	UP 2.93
Mining	1,204.01	DOWN 8.86
OIL	1.45	DOWN 0.05
All Shares Index	775.39	UP 0.61
Composite	1,265.44	UP 2.53

NO. OF ADVANCES: 33; NO. OF DECLINES: 38; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 43; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 114; NO. OF TRADES: 1,769

CURRENCIES

Aug. 31, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.090513	1.000000	51.2100
Japan	Yen	0.009145	0.008386	0.4294
United Kingdom	Pound	1.589967	1.458000	74.6642
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139989	0.128370	6.5738
Switzerland	Franc	0.659637	0.604887	30.9763
Canada	Dollar	0.706062	0.647459	33.1564
Singapore	Dollar	0.624327	0.572508	29.3181
Australia	Dollar	0.580987	0.532765	27.2829
Bahrain	Dinar	2.892760	2.652661	135.8428
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.291581	0.267380	13.6925
Brunei	Dollar	0.621906	0.570288	29.2044
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000122	0.000112	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.024672	0.022624	1.1586
UAE	Dirham	0.296980	0.272331	13.9461
Korea	Won	0.000856	0.000785	0.0402
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.917000	46.9596
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.468855	24.0101
France	Franc	0.152450	0.139796	7.1590
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.416116	21.3093
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066641	3.4127
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022732	1.1641
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000474	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.154228	7.8980
Portugal	Escudo	0.000517	0.000474	0.0243
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005511	0.2822
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022732	1.1641
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.16435	59.6264

Bayantrade reports ₱2.2B in e-bid deals

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

BAYANTRADE, the country's leading e-business portal, has conducted more than 185 e-bidding events involving transactions worth about P2.2 billion as of August.

The single largest transaction, involving a construction deal for a leading pharmaceutical company, was worth more than P300 million.

BayanTrade officials said the company has already achieved its target of hitting P4-billion worth of transactions for the first two years of its operations.

BayanTrade e-bidding services head Cherokee Chamorro said more companies were now using the e-bidding service because of the significant cost savings that both buyers and suppliers enjoy by using it.

"With a 98-percent sign-up rate for suppliers, it's obvious that the members of our e-community see the tangible benefits associated with joining the e-bidding service," he said.

He added that over 450 suppliers have already participated in BayanTrade's e-bidding events including those from Germany, The Netherlands, Holland, Spain, Australia, China, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.

He also explained that e-bidding was a cost-effective way for suppliers to enter e-commerce.

"It's virtually risk free, especially since everything is on a per-bid basis. Aside from dramatically expanding their markets at no cost by becoming a part of our database, they also enhance their potential to receive medium-term contracts typically covering three months to a year. That's guaranteed business and enables them to plan better," he said.

As for buyers, Chamorro said they "see e-bidding an efficient and effective tool that assures best market prices."

He explained that buyers would be able to get the best market prices from e-bidding than through traditional bidding processes.

"Buyers on BayanTrade benefit because they can get the best market prices for their requirements. Dynamic pricing allows the suppliers to submit multiple bids within a given timeframe, so the best price is realized as the e-bidding closes," he explained.

To further strengthen its e-bidding service, BayanTrade president and CEO Carrol Carreon said the company has been upgrading its technology and infrastructure for this service.

Chamorro said e-bidding used to be primarily focused on price, but it was now also paying more attention to non-price factors.

"Multi-variable bidding, where non-price factors play a major role, is now possible. These factors include delivery time or product warranties that can now be auctioned off," he said.

PAL investing in IT, aircraft reconfiguration

PHILIPPINE Airlines Inc. said it would improve its information technology infrastructure and certain physical reconfigurations of its aircraft to better serve its patrons and, at the same time, boost its revenues.

A letter distributed to its stockholders in their annual meeting Thursday states: "we are making investments for the future to provide the company with the right product and our staff with the right tools to conduct business, including e-business."

PAL senior vice president and chief finance officer Andrew Huang said the flag carrier was in the process of finalizing a five-year IT plan that would be "all encompassing."

"We want to streamline the internal flow of information in finance and the back-office by integrating information from requisition to payment. We'll also have a massive front-end terminal replacement program to make our service more efficient," he said.

He added that the airlines' core services like reservations and check-ins could now be accessed through the Internet.

He said PAL saw the power of the Internet when several foreign tourists have started buying tickets online.

"It's something that we want to invest more into. We're a little (behind) compared with other more mature international airlines, but we're going through it (the enhancement) cautiously," he said.

Huang, however, did not disclose exactly how much the country's pioneer flag carrier would invest into the project.

In the meantime, PAL officials said the company would undertake a physical reconfiguration of its A330 and B747-400 aircraft to better serve its customers.

"During peak season, our planes are full to the brim. So there is an opportunity for us to add more seats in our aircraft," Huang said.

Work had already begun last month as the company added 26 more seats to each of PAL's eight A330s. From 278 seats, these aircraft will have capacity of up to 304 by November.

He added that PAL has two main reasons for doing these reconfigurations: "We want to make more money and we want to serve more people, especially during peak season."

PAL estimates an 8-percent reduction in cost per seat when the reconfiguration is completed. Work on the B747-400s will start next year.

PAL announced Thursday that it posted a profit of P419 million on revenues of P39.3 billion for the year that ended March 31, 2001.

Household care industry posts drop in sales

THE COUNTRY'S household pesticides industry registered a drop in sales this year compared with last year's figures, a year-to-date report conducted on the industry by AC Nielsen showed.

The AC Nielsen Household Care Industry Report showed that this year's total sales declined by more than 1 percent from last year's figures, from P455.009 to P446.97 million, despite the early outbreak of dengue this year.

The major segments of the household insecticide market are aerosol, oil spray, electric and coils. The relevant brands include Baygon, Raid, Lion Tiger, and the newly introduced Mortein.

Ironically, the aerosol segment which is the most expensive among the types of insecticides, registered the biggest sales in terms of peso value. This indicated that consumers were willing to purchase products despite the cost because they were more convenient to use. This could also be an indication that consumers were now beginning to upgrade their type of insecticide—from oil spray or coil to electric or aerosol types.

The Nielsen report showed that Baygon's aerosol insecticide registered a 6-percent growth in sales. It cornered 75 percent of the market while the Raid brand got a 22-percent share. Raid registered an 8-percent drop in sales. Mortein, which was introduced to the market last year, registered a share of 2 percent.

In the oil spray segment, Baygon was the leading brand with a market share of 83 percent. Sales of this product rose by 9 percent from last year's level. Sales of Raid oil spray went down by 4 percent during the period under review while its market share was recorded at 15 percent.

HIGHER DEMAND

Floirendo-Del Monte venture expands capacity

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE FLOIRENDO group, one of the biggest producers of fresh fruits in the world, is spending P172.4 million to expand the production of fresh pineapples in its 200-hectare Davao City plantation to meet the increasing demand for Del Monte canned pineapples in Asia-Pacific.

The Board of Investments granted non-pioneer incentives to Davao Agricultural Ventures Corp. (Davco) for the project that will boost its production of fresh pineapples by 54 percent. The project is listed under the 2001 investment priorities plan under the agriculture and fishery production and processing category.

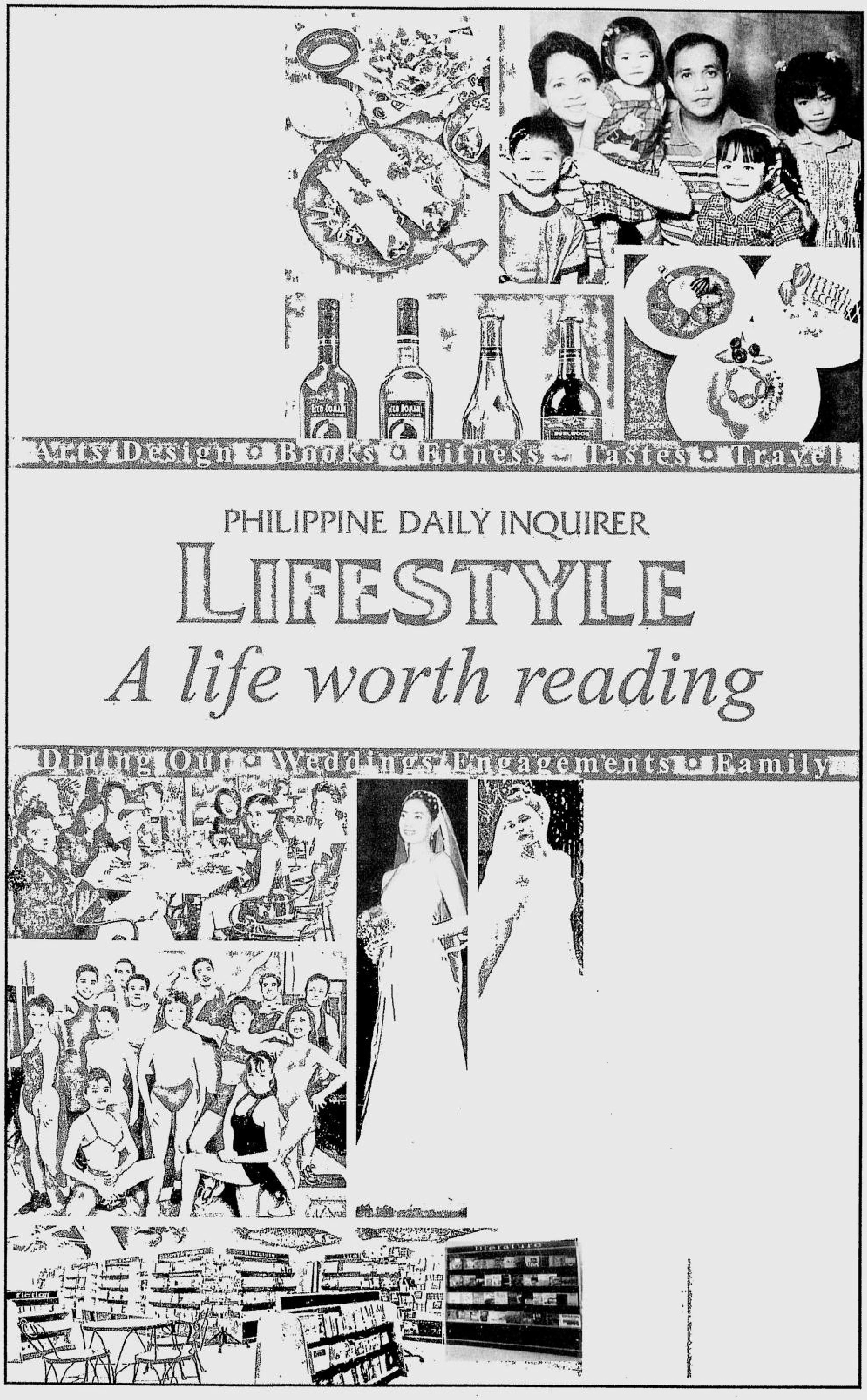
Davco is a 60-40 venture between the Floirendo family and Del Monte Fresh Fruit Far East.

Davco's expansion project will increase its annual capacity by 9,470 metric tons to 27,120 metric tons. Davco has been producing well beyond capacity since 1998 and the expansion was meant for rising demand from Japan, Hong Kong, Korea and New Zealand.

The share of Davco's export earnings to total sales has ballooned from 78 percent in 1998 to 98 percent in 2000 due to rising demand for fresh pineapples overseas. Roughly 94 percent of the incremental capacity would be exported.

The expansion project will cover properties in Subasta and Baguio, Calinan, Davao City. The project will create 170 new jobs.

Davco has already finalized the land negotiation and clearing for the project. It is expected to prepare and develop the plantation by April next year. The project is expected to start commercial operations by April 2003.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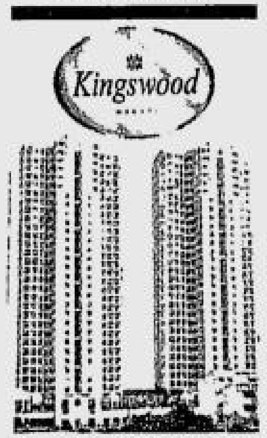

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BFR 1.7M 3BR2TB 8428853

MAKATI

10 MINS. FRM AYALA
ZOBEL ROXAS MAKATI
BNew/4sty/3BR/3TB/grge
P3.050M up 8903461 loc 34

RUSH owner leavng 6003 Kalayaan Ave. (nr. South Ave) 60m² lot 2sty 2BR1TB 2sty P2.3M TEL 8950126/8955808

PASAY

4 Sale 1BR Condo nr. Japemb Park Ave. Mans 28.44sqms P1.1M neg. ready 4 occ Call Cora 895-1441

PASIG

RUSH! Renaissance 2000 DBO 2br+2tb 09178143792

QUEZON CITY

C-5 Mind'nao Ave QC 680T & Up/ Unit 3yrs to pay 0% Int 9256340 / 09185079799

RUSH! TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

SALE/RENT 2-3BR TERMS AFFORDABLE T414-0573

Santol LA300m² 4br 7808605

SIKATUNA 3.4M neg 160LA 09198891605 • 4262797

QC Thse nr UP 2sty 2BR 2TB T9125847

VARIOUS AREAS

MAKATI CONDOS
ROCKWELL
LEASE: 2BR 3BR Bam, SF, FF, 80K to 175K /mo. SALE: 1BR, 2BR, 3BR P10M, P13M,P21M Lito 800-4748 • 0917-3752258

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

MEMORIAL LOT

Loyola & MNL Mem 938-1819

Himlay Pilipino 6870260

FARM/FISHPEN

Baras Farm 1.5H 635-0462

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

LAS PINAS

2BR P5,500 T842-0440

MANILA

1536 NR UST 09197953573 ALYS 7419295 NENA

2BR U/D 7.5/8T Tel.#5634405

MANDALUYONG

Mand 2BR Apt New Zaniga Call 531-7556 • 534-2370

PASIG

22-B Kagandahan St., Kawilihan Vill Pasig 11T 2BR 2TB 1Prkg space Call Ana 433-7994 ofc hours

QUEZON CITY

Resl/Ofc 98RocesP8T 3722625

SAN JUAN

Up/dwn 2BR 2TB w/grge 920-6694/925-1348/49

HOUSE

LAS PINAS

3BR Bung Tel/Grg 10T/mo Strong H'O Call Greg 365-5370 • 920-0169 PM

S'dierll big nice 8004884

MANILA

2227 Taft Ave. 4BDRMS 2TB 5min. to DLS T-524-8823

QUEZON CITY

10 Cecilville W-Plains 5BR 5BT 4CG S-Pool 633-0164

Alta Vista P29T 4BR 2TB Nr. Ateneo Call Ed 913-5084

Teachers Vill. big good for sch/ofc Call 931-9452

OTHER AREAS

2BR Bung nr PMA BgyKias Strng H'O T9125847/2304

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR 4Rent P7T 09174006694

QUEZON CITY

4 Rent Twnhse TIMOG 4BR 2-bath 9367425

SAN JUAN

GHills Std Sem Furn w/ Fon Call 7267615 09177920456

GREENHILLS Condo Units For Lease/Sale Call: Sally •7254991/(0917)9334266•

ROOM & BOARD

Cubao Ladies 9124106

Mkt 1Male 0919-3431937

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

BUSINESS RENTAL

2Stry HSE w/ext Good loc Nr Espana 25TH 631-9964

80 sq.m. w/ AC,
carpeted, Madrigal
Business Park, Alabang
102 sq.m. w/ AC,
carpeted, Legaspi
Suites Bldg., Makati
Tel.#8090379/8099421

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

Canteen w/ Equipt 4251255

Com'l Space 4 Rent 157 Kamias Ext.9206694/9251348

Nr BUENDIA along PTAMO
38/85/62/185m² 1st Class Bldg.
8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs.

Nr Kamuning Mrkt 9289555

Retiro cor. Banawe
180m² Comml 1Flr Bldg.
Cynthia 6555185 0917-8351444

WANTED TO LEASE

WANTED WAREHOUSE Urgently 2000 to 3000 sqm. must be near airport Rent & option to buy 9288053/9288055 Susan or Wilma

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

MERCEDES

MB100 '98 375T 9257622

MITSUBISHI

96 Strada 41Tkm A1 Cond. Org. Pnt, No Retach, Rhino Camper P498T 641-0262 Noel

'97 L300 FB 270T 631-3649

NISSAN

'99 Vanet 420T Neg. 631-3649

TOYOTA

'96 XL 21Tkm Fld Lady Ownd 911-6949 • 0919-2067586

'98 COROLLA XE Loaded 350T 941-1927 • 9334817

Corolla GLI 16 valve 97 modl 1st owner 50T km run 295T ((0918)913-7828

'79 Toyota Corona. Call Jojo or Rose 9329721

OTHER CAR BRANDS

87 DODGE RAM Sale/Lease P15T/Mo. call 815-2299

97 DODGE CARAVAN 800T neg. T-9297052/54 ofc

BUSES/TRUCKS

Directly Imptd, Fully Recon All Kinds of Trucks 20%DP T776-4287 • 0917-3318471 T776-7464 • 0917-4196856

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

MOTOR PARTS TOYOTA GENUINE PARTS
mazda
HONDA NISSAN
KIA STAREX
FREE CHECK-UP! 8am-7pm
GUARANTEED SERVICE
RUBBERVOLT QC 3716783
115 Mind. Ave. QC 9291514

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

CAR VANS 413-5383

BrdalMB/Vans9296250;4535288

HiAce L300 Urvan 8257135

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

L300 Vans 5788917(Roger)

L3/MB 7491567-9344988

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

U Drive Cars Vans 8006595

UDrive w/drivr Cars/L300/ MB/4x4/Bus 8908667-69

VAN 4 HIRE 940-2262

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

100#20#10 KVA SET 3672002

Farm Tractor 55T 3610215

PETS

BOXER PUPS by Phgr & Amch 0917-6495100 / 044-6681590

COLLIE PUPS TEL# 645-8344

DACHSHUND PUP M 4354575

Dog Trainer 09192050952

Male ROTT Pups CHL 3.5mos. 363-3933 • 0917-8199948

P.Bred Cker Spaniel Gldn Bwn w/Papers Mrs. Vicente 8525167, 0919-6217190 P6K

ROTT 4MOS. TOM LINE USA #895-6440

SHITZU PUPS TEL.8339735

SPORTING GOODS

B.Table B'new w/accessories •8014494/8020566•

B.Table B'new w/accessories •8014494/8020566•

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T complete acc's •8618714/16 •8613123 •8613125•

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Bowling & Billiards
Sales & Rentals T-9341569

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

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others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

Partly used Educ 6469097

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CALL:8390002
:8390004

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
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MISCELLANEOUS

FROZEN TUNA 7151193

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Fmly driver QC res 4334504

FEMALE

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WANTED BSEED TEACHER CALL 655-0609

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280722

In need of Lecturers for CGFNS review classes and also CAREGIVER courses, at least NURSING grad., position available for all cities of Luzon, Visayas & Mindanao. SALARY commensurate to qualification mail biodata to: 6/F Locsin Bldg., Ayala Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City, Phils.

License MedTech 9133154

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Ofc Staff 913-4470 BOP

OFC STAFF 9134470 MESA

Ofc Staff 9134470 Helen

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TEACHERS NEEDED FOR PASIG CITY SCHOOL 6556918

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
SALES AGENTS
M/F, excellent commision w/ or w/o exp. bring bio-data, NBI, 2x2 picture
Tel. 534-5926 / 27

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

QCRB Real Estate Seminar Sept.8,15,22&29 8am-5pm T-7216884/9122304-5847

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Cash Flow Now! 15,000 Flxble Hrs + Travel 800-4226

U.S. EMBASSY
INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING BUREAU
PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION

PROPERTY DISPOSAL SALE

SEALED BID SALE of used vehicles, household furniture, furnishings and appliances, miscellaneous office furniture and equipment, B&G tools and equipment, transmitter equipment and miscellaneous scrap materials.

INSPECTION OF PROPERTY: September 5-6, 2001; 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM at IBB/PTS (formerly Voice of America), Tinang, Concepcion, Tarlac. Submission of bids and 20% bond in cash or Manager's Check will be on September 7, 2001 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

Tel. Nos. (045) 982-0254 or 0255

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Earn Dollars Weekly
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0919-8019699, 0919-8019700

Trvl Oppor/Earn Fr Home 8531008 2477469 5252230 Pgr 6343333 ID# 227933

Herbal all illness bald diabetes 09187181793

Make your own franchise! Elegant kiosk with ind'l machines, ref, complete eqpt. & manual of store ops: •(0917)9710295 James•

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CALL OUR 8390004
HOT LINES: 8390060

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

GOLDEN PAWNSHOP, INC. 2000 C.R. Magsaysay Ave, Guadalupe Makati City & 29 Unit 6, Dona Eglantine Mansion, Sierra Madre St, Mandaluyong City. On Sept. 9, 2001 at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. respectively be sold at public auction at the above address all unredeemed articles pledged during the months of Feb. 2001 & Mar. 2001 whose terms have been expired. (Juan Lanuza & Sons-Licensed Auctioneer)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **NELLIE M. VILLAROJO** was extrajudicially settled among her heirs per Doc. 59, Book I, Page 14, Series of 2001 Notary Public Lilia B. Pilares-De Vera
(PDI-Sept. 1, 8 & 15, 2001)

The public is hereby notified that MARIA ELENA LUMAGBAS UY will file under RA9048 for change of name in the birth certificate as MARIA LINDA UY. Any person having knowledge or claiming interest by said petition may file his written opposition with NSO within 10 calendar days
(PDI-Sept. 1 & 7, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the Loss of Heritage Park Investment Certificates ID#07L05653; 07L05654;07L05655; 07L05656; 07L05657 & 04G00901 of Spouses Antonio & Ma. Lourdes Co. If no contest is received new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Sept. 1,8,&15 2001)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

A large reputable Bank in Makati is accepting proposals to prequalify to bid for the:

Supply of Office Uniforms

The Bank requires the following to be submitted together with the formal offer to pre-qualify:

1. Proof that the offeror has at least three (3) years experience in Institutional uniform contracting and that the lead proponent has at least five (5) years of relevant management experience.
2. Written conformity to the following conditions:
    - Background check especially from previous clients shall be conducted by the Bank;
    - Spot checks of the shop shall be done by the Bank on current operation and existing facilities; and
    - A refundable Performance Bond (in cash or surety) equivalent to 10% of contract price shall be required by the Bank.
3. Company Profile and Latest Audited Financial Statements.
4. References from previous clients.

The Uniform Committee reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all Bids/Offers/Proposals. The decision of the Bank is final and binding.

Please address formal offer to: The Secretariat, Uniform Committee, P.O. Box 1996, Makati Commercial Center 1200. The Committee shall accept all submissions postmarked not later than September 12, 2001.

(PDI – Sept. 1, 2 & 3, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal
Electoral Tribunal Building
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

RESOLUTION

The Tribunal Resolved to AMEND Rules 31, 32, 34, 37 and 39 of the 1998 Rules of the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal as follows:

Rule 31. *Filing Fees.* - No protest, counter-protest or petition for *quo warranto* shall be deemed filed without the payment to the Tribunal of the filing fee in the amount of Five Thousand (P5,000.00) Pesos.

If a claim for damages or attorney's fees is set forth in a protest, counter-protest or petition for *quo warranto* an additional filing fee shall be paid, which shall be, if the sum claimed is:

(1)	Not more than P20,000.00	P500.00
(2)	More than P20,000.00 but less than P40,000.00	700.00
(3)	P40,000.00 or more but less than P60,000.00	900.00
(4)	P60,000.00 or more but less than P80,000.00	1,000.00
(5)	P80,000.00 or more but less than P100,000.00	1,100.00
(6)	P100,000.00 or more but less than P150,000.00	1,500.00
(7)	For each P1,000.00 in excess of P150,000.00	P50.00

Where the protest, counter-protest or petition for quo warranto is filed by registered mail, it must be accompanied by a postal money order in the amount of the corresponding filing fees.

The required fees must be fully paid within the time limit prescribed in Rules 16 *(Election Protest)*, 17 *(Quo • Warranto)*, 23 *(Verified Answer)* and 24 *(Answer to Counterclaim or Counter • Protest)* of this Rule.

Rule 32. *Cash Deposit.* - In addition to the fees prescribed in the preceding Rule, each protestant, counter-protestant or petitioner in *quo warranto* shall make a cash deposit with the Tribunal in the following amounts:

(1) In a petition for *quo warranto*, Five Thousand (P5,000.00) Pesos *to be paid within ten (10) days after the filing of the petition;*

(2) If the protest or counter-protest does not require the bringing to the Tribunal of the ballot boxes and other election documents and paraphernalia from the district concerned, Five Thousand (P5,000.00) Pesos;

(3) If the protest or counter-protest requires the bringing of ballot boxes and other election documents and paraphernalia, *eight hundred (P800.00)* pesos for each precinct involved therein; Provided, that in no case shall the deposit be less than *twenty thousand (P20,000.00)* pesos;

(4) If, as thus computed, the amount of the deposit does not exceed *one hudred thousand (P100,000.00)* pesos, the same shall be *paid* in full with the Tribunal within ten (10) days after the filing of the protest or counter-protest;

(5) If the deposit exceeds *one hundred thousand (P100,000.00)* pesos, a partial cash deposit of at least *one hundred thousand (P100,000.00)* pesos, shall be made within ten (10) days after the filing of the protest or counter-protest. The balance shall be paid in such installments as may be required by the Tribunal on at least five (5) days advance notice to the party required to make a cash deposit.

The cash deposit shall be applied by the Tribunal to the payment of all expenses incidental to *the disposition of the case, including, in the case of protest*, the bringing of the ballot boxes and election documents and paraphernalia to the Tribunal and returning them to their original official custodians after the case is terminated, and to the compensation of the Revisors. When the Tribunal determines that the circumstances so demand, it may require additional cash deposits. Any unused cash deposit shall be returned to the party or parties making the same after complete termination of the protest, counter-protest or petition for *quo warranto.*

Rule 34. *Legal Fees.* - The following legal fees shall be charged and collected:

(1) For furnishing certified transcript of records or copies of any record, decision resolution or entry of which any person is entitled to demand and receive a copy, for each page .... Five (P5.00) Pesos;

(2) For furnishing certified transcripts of notes taken by stenographers to every person requesting the same, for each page not less than two hundred and fifty words, for each page *seven pesos and fifty centavos (P7.50)* pesos, *provided, however, that one third (1/3) of the total charges shall go to the Tribunal and the remaining two-thirds (2/3) to the stenographer concerned;*

(3) For every search for anything above a year's standing and reading the same .... Ten (P10.00) Pesos; and

(4) For every certificate not in process .... Fifty (P50.00) Pesos

Rule 37. *Revisors; Compensation.* - The Tribunal shall fix the compensation of the Revisors. Until otherwise provided by the Tribunal, such compensation shall be *one hundred fifty (P150.00) pesos* for the Party Revisor and *two hundred fifty (P250.00)* pesos for the Regular Head Revisor for every ballot box the contents of which are examined; *three hundred (P300.00)* pesos for the Alternate Head Revisor for every revision day actually served by him.

Rule 39. *Procedure During Revision.* - The officials in charge of the revision shall make a statement of the conditions in which each ballot box was found upon the opening thereof, and set forth clearly in the report to be submitted by them any claim or objection that may have been made to each ballot. Only claims or objections to the ballots based on substantial grounds shall be allowed. During the revision, disputed ballots shall be numbered consecutively with colored pencil for purposes of identification, in the presence and under the direction of the official designated by the Tribunal to supervise the revision. No arguments in support of or against objections or claims to ballots shall be entertained. Such arguments may be embodied and set forth by the parties in their Memoranda. *The revision of the contents of one ballot box shall be completed within two hours from the time the parties register their objections and claims to the ballots.* After examination of each box, the ballots shall be returned to the respective boxes under lock and key, but the disputed ballots shall be placed in a separate envelope sealed and signed by the revisors before being returned to the box.

The Amendments shall take effect within fifteen (15) days following the publication of this Resolution in a newspaper of general circulation.

Promulgated this 30th day of August 2001.

(Sgd.) **JOSE A. R. MELO**
Associate Justice, Supreme Court
Chairman

(Sgd.) **JOSE C. VITUG**
Associate Justice, Supreme Court
Member

(Sgd.) **VICENTE V. MENDOZA**
Associate Justice, Supreme Court
Member

(Sgd.) **DOUGLAS RA. CAGAS**
Representative
First District, Davao del Sur
Member

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA G. CRUZ-DUCUT**
Representative
Second District, Pampanga
Member

(Sgd.) **OSCAR S. RODRIGUEZ**
Representative
Third District, Pampanga
Member

(Sgd.) **SALACNIB F. BATERINA**
Representative
First District, Ilocos Sur
Member

(Sgd.) **MAGTANGGOL T. GUNIGUNDO I**
Representative
Second District, Valenzuela City
Member

(Sgd.) **JOAQUIN M. CHIPECO, JR.**
Representative
Second District, Laguna
Member

(PDI--Sept. 1, 2001)

DUTY FREE

INVITATION TO BID

1. **DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES**, a division of the Philippine Tourism Authority, is inviting interested parties to bid for the following:
    1. Office/Computer Supplies
    2. Office Furniture/Equipment
    3. General Hardware/Printing Materials
    4. Steel Products
    5. Printing Services (Printed/Computer Forms)
    6. Wrappers, Gift Bags, Tags, Boxes
    7. Purified Water
    8. Toiletries (Toilet Paper, Paper Towel, Soap)
    9. Janitorial Services
    10. Trucking and Hauling Services
    11. Equipment Rental (Computer with printer/Forklift/Copying Machines)
    12. Brokerage/Forwarder Services
2. All interested parties may secure pre-qualification form for a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) on **September 3-6, 2001** from the **Purchasing Department, DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES, New Fiestamall, Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Parañaque City.** Submission of duly accomplished pre-qualification form shall be until **September 12, 2001** at 5:00 PM.
3. Bidders will be required to post a bid bond equivalent to Five (5%) percent of their total bid in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check or surety bond from GSIS or from any private bonding company accredited by the Insurance Commission.
4. Duty Free Philippines reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refuse to accept his award. Further, DFP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **RUFINO G. PARFAN**
Acting Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -- Sept. 1 & 2, 2001)

DILG 2000
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION
BFP 2000

LETTER OF INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Pre-qualifications, Bids and Award Committee of the Bureau of Fire Protection is inviting interested bidders who are at least 60% Filipino-owned to prequalify and bid for the supply and delivery of:

WATER TANKER PUMPER (WTP) FIRETRUCK

Bid documents may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,000.00 in cash at the Bureau of Fire Protection, Pre-qualifications, Bids and Award Committee, Rm. 604, Union Square Condominium, 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City on **September 11-13, 2001** during office hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with telephone No. 911-2129 (Attn. Engr. Arsenio M. Rodriguez, Jr., PBAC Head Secretariat). A Pre-bid Conference will be held on **September 27, 2001,** 2:00 PM at Rm. 101, BFP Conference Room.

The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their proposals nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JOSE E. COLLADO**
SR SUPT (DSC) BFP
Chairman, BFP-PBAC

(PDI -- Sept. 1, 2 & 3, 2001)

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The company will shoulder all expenses such as:

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Tel. No. : **371-0440 and 371-0477**

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WISHES TO ANNOUNCE ITS NEW CONTACT NUMBERS/E-MAILS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2001 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL TRUNKLINES	-	884-66-00 TO 05
FAX NO.	-	817-35-23
CUSTOMER SERVICE	-	884-67-00
FAX NO.	-	884-67-01
MOTHER'S CLUB	-	884-67-40
CREDIT & COLLECTION	-	884-66-24
FAX NO.	-	884-66-25
PURCHASING FAX	-	884-66-62
WYETH CARE LINE	-	884-67-41 TO 42
E-MAILS	-	wpinutri@wai.wyeth.com wpipharma@wai.wyeth.com
WHITEHALL DIVISION FAX NO	-	884-66-98

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You must be...

HIGHLY CREATIVE
With excellent layout skills
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MAC PROFICIENT
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Can deliver volume and quality ads
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Weekdays from 9am to 5pm
Bring resume and portfolio

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
Metro Manila
Fabella Street corner Acacia Lana
Brgy. Addition Hills, Welfareville Compound
Mandaluyong City
DL 718-3095 to 99

SENTRONG SIGLA

August 27, 2001

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
RPBAC-IPB NO. 2001-02

The Department of Health-Center for Health Development for Metro Manila (CHD-MM) invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of various drugs and medicines for the use of CHD-MM chargeable against the funds of CHD-MM.

Only duly accredited drug suppliers/manufacturers and/or exclusive distributors as certified by the Suppliers Accreditation Committee for Drugs and Medicines of the DOH are qualified to participate in this bidding.

Bidding documents can be secured from Mr. Henry Mendiola, Building 1, CHD-MM, Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS, Philippine Currency (P500.00).

Schedule of Activities

a)	**Issuance of Bid Documents**	September 10-14, 2001 (9:00 AM - 3:00 PM) Building 1 2/F, CHD-MM Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Addition Hills Mandaluyong City
b)	**Submission of Eligibility Requirements**	September 21, 2001 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM) Conference Room, LHAD Building, CHD-MM Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Addition Hills Mandaluyong City
c)	**Pre-bid Conference**	September 21, 2001 (1:30 AM - 3:00 PM) Conference Room, LHAD Building, CHD-MM Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Addition Hills Mandaluyong City
d)	**Submission of Sealed Bids**	September 28, 2001 (9:30 AM to 10:00 AM) Conference Room, LHAD Building, CHD-MM Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Addition Hills Mandaluyong City

For further information, please contact Mr. Henry C. Mendiola or Ms. Arabella A. Torralba, Secretariat, Bids & Awards Committee (BAC), at telephone numbers 718-3098 or 534-4448.

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the CHD-MM's action.

(Sgd.) **DAVID J. LOZADA, JR., MD, MPA, CESO IV**
Director IV

(PDI -- Sept. 1 & 2, 2001)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila
Tel. No. 527-4873, 527-4892 & 527-4880

INVITATION TO BID

GENCO 1 01-009 (PB)

DATE OF BIDDING — SEPTEMBER 14, 2001

0104-013-TES	1 pc., Turbine Room Sump Pump, Type TSE-VS, Capacity 20t/n, SS 3600 rpm, Casing and Impeller Stainless Steel Cast Steel (SCS 14) and Shaft Stainless Steel (SUS 316) including accessories
0104-017	6 sets, Repair Kit for Pneumatic Cylinder, Model A81B2B, composed of Bolted Bushing Rod Seal Kit and Bore Kit
0107-013	8 sets Guide Roller, Ø700 and 500 mm, JIS G5121 SCS16 and SCS1, heat treated, PN 54900-0131-6 and 54900-0160-A and 240 pcs. Stopper, t3, SUS 316L, PN 54900-0131-33, S/P for Chain Roller Assembly of SSC, Manufactured by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries or equivalent
0107-027	1 lot, S/P for Booster Relay, Model 1L-100-02, Max. Supply Press, 9.9 kg/cm², Max. Inlet and Outlet Press. 7 kg/cm², SMC Brand, consisting of 16 items
0107-037-TES	10 pcs., Spare Electronic Cards of Boiler Feed Pump Turbine Control System and Safeties, Manufactured by Alstom, consisting of 7 items
0107-047	1 lot, Auxiliary Switch, PN 5P9C01155P003, Closing/Trip Coil, PN 4C9C033 G001 DC125V and DC Geared Motor (with gear box), PN 5P9C0106 P003 DC125V, S/P for Toshiba 460 V Air Circuit Breaker, Manufactured by Toshiba Corporation
0108-040	530 employees, 2001 Annual Physical and Laboratory Examinations
0108-041	81 pcs., Plaques, clear finished, acrylic marbleized with turquoise effect acrylic, clear base with turquoise effect and NPC logo no sharp edges or equivalent
0108-042-TES	1 job, Hardfacing of six (6) pcs. worn out conical type grinding rolls
0108-043	1 lot, S/P for Bobcat Skid Steer Loader, Model 980, consisting of 9 items

Bid documents will be available to accredited suppliers starting September 3, 2001 and may be secured from Administration Division during working days from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM upon payment of P25.00 for ONE ENVELOPE SYSTEM and P50.00 for TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

Bids must be in triplicate and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price either in Cash, Manager's Check, Irrevocable LC, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Surety Bond from GSIS Insurance Commission.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Manager
Professional Services Department

(PDI -- Sept. 1, 2001)

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
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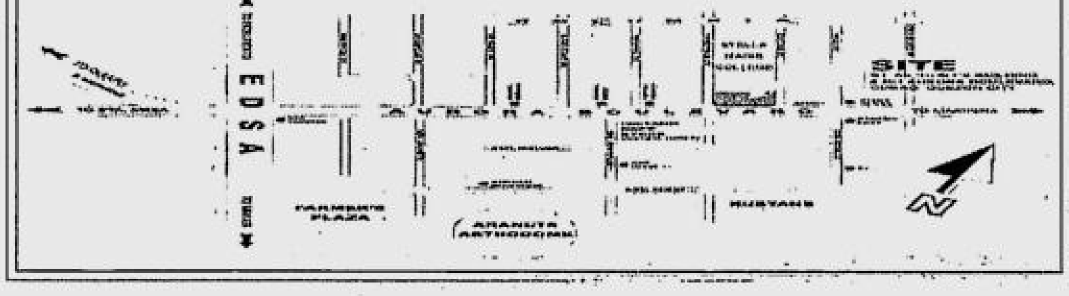


$10-B AUCTION

Napocor, GSIS row over insurance heats up

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. rebuffed yesterday the Government Service Insurance System, saying it would itself bid out the reinsurance of about $10 billion worth of its assets.

"Our suggestion is just to have a more transparent process than they used to have. That is why we are proposing a bidding committee composed of Napocor and GSIS (representatives)," Napocor president Jesus Alcordo said in a news briefing yesterday.

Alcordo said Napocor did not intend to violate the Property Insurance Law, which gave the GSIS the authority to write the insurance policies covering properties of government agencies and state-run corporations.

In an earlier news statement, Napocor said it decided to take an active role in the choice of brokers and reinsurers for its industrial all-risk policy due to the amount involved and "to ensure greater transparency and accountability."

The policy, which expires on Sept. 30, covers Napocor's fixed assets, including power plants, substations and nationwide transmission network.

Napocor said it had scheduled an auction early this month.

Napocor has clarified that the GSIS will still write the policy, which will be "backed up by several insurance companies which have proposals."

"What we are suggesting is that we should participate in the process of getting the best rates and the best broker for our insurance. After all, we are the client. We pay for the premiums," Alcordo told reporters.

He said he was informed that there was a provision in the law that the GSIS should be competitive with what the private sector was offering.

"If we are not involved in the bidding, how do we know that the GSIS is giving us the best rate for our insurance?" he asked.

He added that Napocor had to make sure that for every cost it spent, there would be a corresponding "reasonable service."

He said that in the last five years, Napocor paid a total of $47.6 million in premiums as against only $1.6 million in claims received.

"Our pending claims amount to $41 million. If you remove the deductibles, that should go down to about $22 million," Alcordo said.

He could not give details on the nature of the claims, but said these were generally for damages to their facilities.

GSIS president Winston Garcia was earlier quoted as saying Napocor was remiss in submitting the necessary documents for the disbursement of its claims.

"Those claims are waiting to be disbursed. We cannot disburse them because Napocor has not submitted the required documents," Garcia said.

But Alcordo denied this, saying the problem on documents was due to GSIS' inefficiency.

"When something is damaged, we have to repair first and pay ourselves. We have to present the receipts before they refund our expenses," Alcordo said.

The GSIS is insisting that it will hold its own bidding for the reinsurance of Napocor's assets.

The state-owned pension fund has slated the auction within the month and has invited Napocor to send two representatives to participate in the annual process.

Garcia said the GSIS had the receipts to show that Napocor "has been fully paid for all their completed claims."

He clarified that "completed claims" were those that had fulfilled all documentary requirements.

In a letter to Napocor president Jesus Alcordo, Garcia reiterated: "It is GSIS' responsibility to secure for NPC the most favorable terms and conditions for the insurance policy that GSIS will issue to NPC. How GSIS will protect its risks under the insurance policy is GSIS' sole undertaking.

"The law is clear and unequivocal about which entity has the responsibility to insure and even to reinsure government assets—and it is the GSIS," Garcia said.

SEC defends policy over lenders

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission yesterday defended its policy requiring would-be lending investors to register as financing companies.

The SEC clarified in a statement that while there was no specific law that gave the SEC jurisdiction to regulate lending investors, the direct lending activity of lending investors was considered a financing company activity and, therefore, should be registered as such.

The new Central Bank Act also transferred the regulatory powers of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas over finance companies without quasi-banking functions and other institutions performing similar functions to the SEC, according to the SEC.

Ernesto Villagracia, who introduced himself as acting chair of the organizing committee of the Chamber of Lending Investors of the Philippines, earlier scored an SEC memorandum circular that suspended the incorporation of lending investors as "illegal, baseless and high-handed."

The SEC said it would ask the opinion of the justice department on whether it could regulate lending investors without a law granting such authority.

The commission stressed that while it recognized the role of micro-finance in the fight against poverty, it could not close its eyes to the dangers of thousands of unregulated lending investors who were deriving their funding requirements from the investing public.

The SEC cited the case of Pacific Lenders Inc., a Cebu-based lending investor now facing criminal action for failure to pay back some 300 investors with investments of around P83.9 million.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista, in a news briefing, said the new policy had apparently not discouraged new lending investors given that those who applied for registration with the SEC were willing to meet the increased capital and reportorial requirements of a financing company.

Bautista also noted that the lending investors could still register as sole proprietorship or partnership with the trade and industry department, which, as far as the SEC understood, had not suspended registration of lending investors.

JG Summit says no UIC takeover

LOCAL conglomerate JG Summit Holdings chair John Gokongwei is not planning a takeover of Singaporean firm United Industrial Corp., a top JG Summit official said Friday.

Shares of United Industrial surged about 10 percent in morning trade in Singapore on speculation Gokongwei would launch a hostile takeover for United Industrial after raising his stake to 24.62 percent in the past three days, becoming the single largest shareholder.

"No takeover. We are just buying shares because they are cheap. The takeover rumors are not true," Lance Gokongwei, JG Summit executive vice president and John's son, told Reuters.

John Gokongwei's stake in United Industrial is just below the general offer trigger of 25 percent.

Analysts said Gokongwei might have raised his interest in United Industrial to gain control of its 61-percent subsidiary, Singapore Land.

SingLand climbed 1.92 percent, or six cents, to S$3.18 by mid-trade, as United Industrial jumped 9.33 percent, or seven cents, to S$0.82.

JG Summit—with interests in retail, food, property, telecommunications and airline—was untraded from its Thursday close of P1.84.

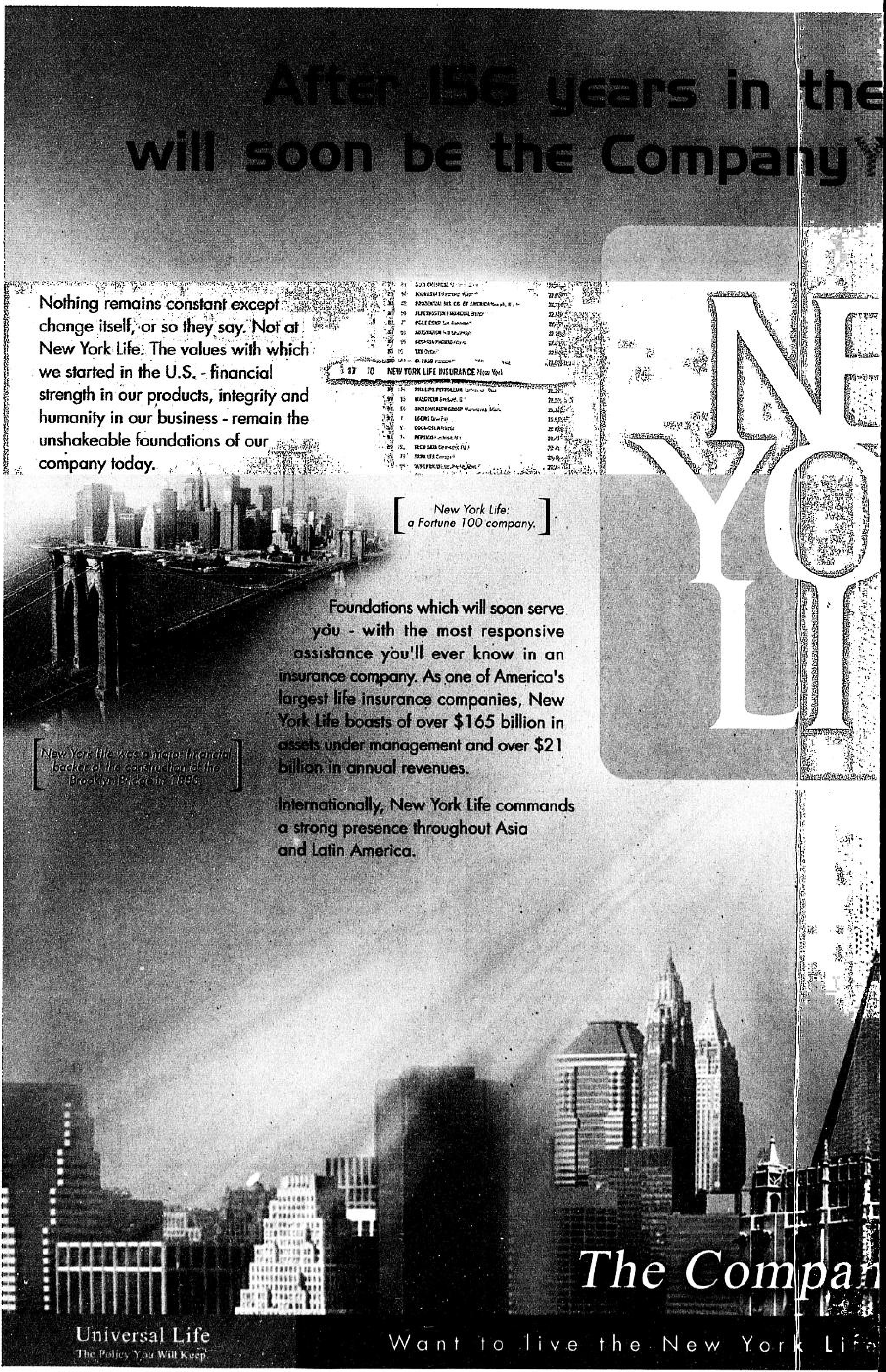
Gov't OK . . .

(From page B1)

In a joint petition filed by four groups, local entertainers had asked the DOF and the BIR to suspend the implementation of the new policy until the government has resolved pressing issues, like piracy, that were eating up the industry's income.

Those who signed the petition were Espiridion Laxa, chair of the Film Academy of the Phils.; Mitch Valdez, president of the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit; German Moreno, president of the Katipunan ng Artista sa Pelikula at Telebisyon; and June Rufino, president of the Professional Artist Managers Inc.

Representatives from the movie and television industry said that a significant portion of their staff who were paid in terms of talent fees actually earn less than P140,000 yearly.



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GLOBAL GROWTH

IMF to cut forecast to 2.8%

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund will cut its global growth forecast to 2.8 percent from its previous estimate of 3.2 percent and lower its 2002 global expansion outlook to 3.6 percent from 3.9 percent, an IMF source said on Thursday.

The IMF source told Reuters that the latest data being compiled for the IMF's World Economic Outlook would leave forecasts for US growth unchanged at 1.5 percent for 2001 and 2.5 percent for 2002.

The IMF last published its WEO in late April and will next publish the document, which takes the pulse of economies around the world, in late September.

The IMF source said growth prospects for the 12 nations of the euro zone would be cut to 2 percent for 2001 compared to an earlier forecast of 2.4 percent growth. Euro zone growth for 2002 will be cut to 2.5 percent from 2.8 percent.

Japan is forecast to be in recession this year, with a contraction of 0.2 percent compared with an earlier forecast of 0.6-percent growth. Japan's prospects for 2002 have also been downgraded to a growth of 0.5 percent compared to an earlier prediction of 1.5 percent, the source said.

The source said the latest estimates were based on information available through the middle of August, and recent economic data would likely lower estimates even further.

"It's a very uncertain outlook, that much is clear," the IMF source said.

"This is based on information through to mid-August, but the string of information over the last couple of days has been very negative and stock markets are down strongly today on negative earnings news, US consumer confidence and so on."

"It's not just the United States, European numbers are also looking weaker and I think there is a growing sense that these negative numbers will affect the forecasts," the source said.

Growth in Germany is forecast at a paltry 1.2 percent this year, down from an earlier 1.9 percent, and 2002 growth is now expected at 2.1 percent compared with earlier expectations of 2.6 percent.

The IMF will cut its 2001 forecast for Britain to 2.1 percent from an earlier forecast of 2.6 percent and lower its 2002 prediction to 2.6 percent from 2.8 percent.

Forecasts for Italy are unchanged at 2 percent and 2.5 percent for 2001 and 2002, respectively. Growth estimates for Canada are also unchanged at 2.3 percent this year and 2.4 percent next year.

The source said growth prospects in France, previously seen at 2.6 percent for both 2001 and 2002 are being cut to 2.1 percent and 2.2 percent, respectively.

Prospects in South Korea remain unchanged at growth rates of 3.5 percent and 5.5 percent for this year and next.

With four weeks left before the IMF releases its flagship WEO publication, there is plenty of time to revise numbers.

Tweaking the massive biannual forecast has become easier because the IMF now circulates draft copies of the WEO for input from far-flung finance ministers electronically as opposed to the diplomatic pouch of earlier years.

Fresh data, including weak economic growth in the US economy for the second quarter of the year, have darkened prospects in recent days. And expectations of weak corporate profits ahead dragged the Dow Jones industrial average to its lowest level in nearly five months on Thursday. *Reuters*

Easier rates unlikely despite tame inflation

SINGAPORE—With the inflation outlook mild in most of Asia's slowing economies, the atmosphere would seem to be ripe for easier monetary policy, but the region's central bankers don't appear to be in a hurry to loosen the reins.

Economists say monetary policy in most of Asia is focused on stabilizing currencies and, until that is ensured, any plans to push growth through easier rates would be on the back burner.

"There is very little inflation anywhere in the Asian region and interest rates will be tending to move lower," said PK Basu, chief economist at Credit Suisse First Boston in Singapore.

"But the central banks are more keen to stabilize their currencies and are not going to aggressively cut rates."

The Bank of Thailand has ruled out rate cuts while simultaneously slashing growth forecasts.

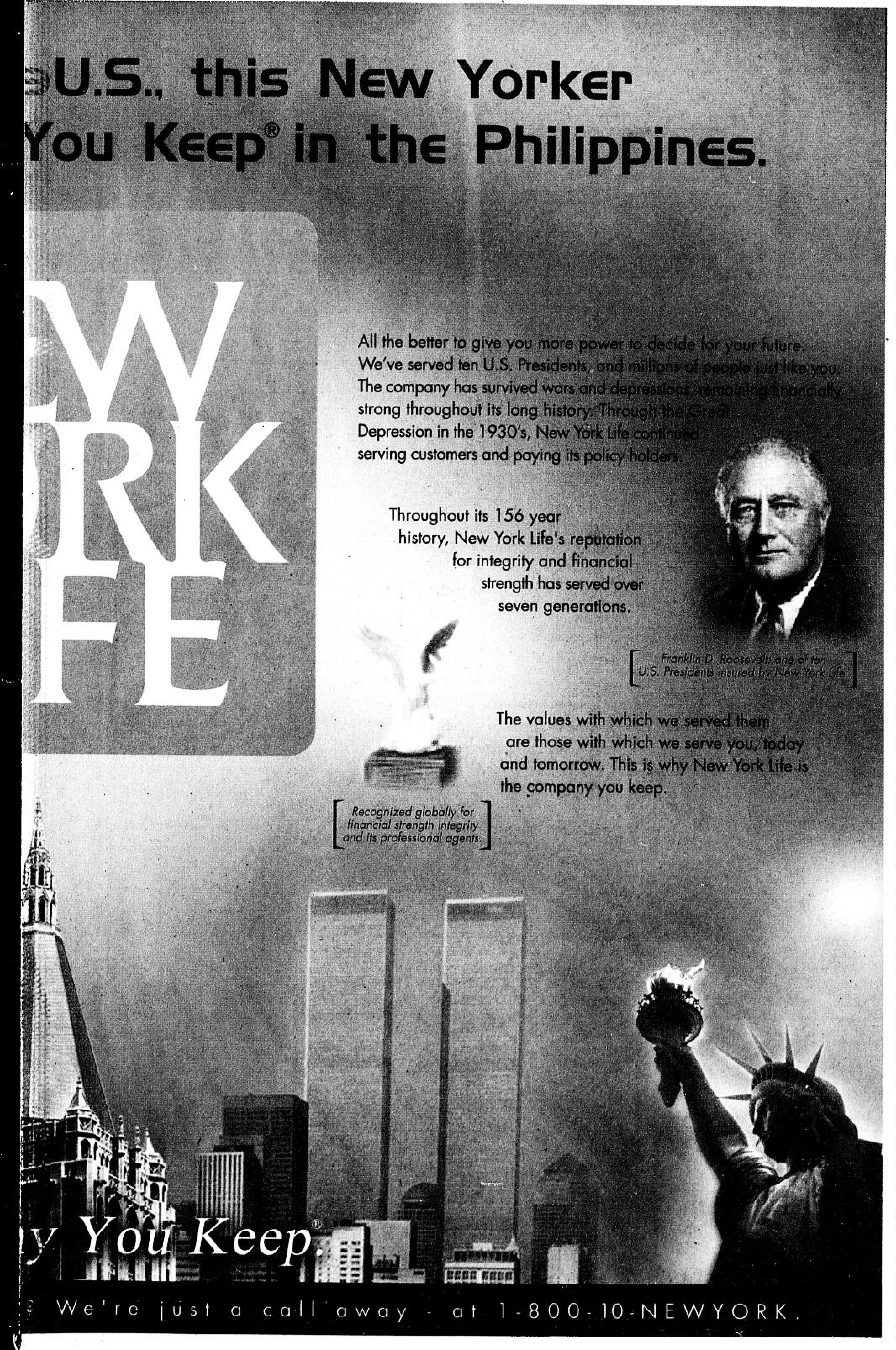
Malaysian authorities, struggling with flat growth, sluggish demand and little inflation, say rates are already low.

In Korea, the outlook for rates has been clouded by heavy rains, which have pushed up agricultural prices.

The Philippines, meanwhile, is concerned that a drop in rates could encourage speculative attacks on the peso.

Among the major countries in the region, only Indonesia is battling a sustained uptrend in inflation and there is uncertainty that the rupiah can sustain recent gains.

The situation for policymakers is complicated by the global slowdown, especially the downturn in demand for electronics, which has hit Asian exports. *Reuters*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China not an economic threat, says Fischer

SINGAPORE—China is not an economic threat to Southeast Asia as the region can find its own ways to be competitive, the International Monetary Fund's outgoing deputy chief said in an interview published Friday.

"Even if it's true, in some sense, that you can do everything in China, it's also true that the countries of Southeast Asia can find their own niches," IMF deputy director Stanley Fischer told Singapore's Business Times.

"It's not as if China is operating as a single firm. Some people will invest in China, others will see their opportunities in Thailand or Indonesia or Malaysia," said Fischer, who steps down as IMF's deputy managing director Friday.

He added that a fast-rising China would benefit the region: "I really don't believe that if you have a giant economy in your midst, countries on the periphery are doomed to fall behind."

"I think they'll more likely be helped by the big neighbor, provided it is a trading economy in both directions—that is, it both imports and exports."

Despite China's economic successes and advantages, such as its vast internal market, Fisher said Southeast Asia would be better placed to withstand the competition if it pursued structural reforms and further opened up to foreign investments.

He expressed the hope that the change of government in Indonesia would lead to a reinforcement of commercial law rules and an open approach to foreign investment to help turn around the ailing economy.

"There is so much in Indonesia that can be developed with the help of foreign investment that, with the right climate, I don't see why Indonesia would be damaged by China," he said.

Thailand would also be a more dynamic economy if it was more open to foreign investments, including the financial sector, Fischer said.

Considering the global picture, Fischer discounted the likelihood of a global recession.

"My guess is that we are scraping along with very slow growth among industrialized countries but that we'll avoid negative growth," he said. *AFP*

FOREIGN BRIEFS

China, Taiwan in WTO by Nov.

WASHINGTON—China and Taiwan are on track to join the WTO when it holds a ministerial meeting in Doha, Qatar, in November, US trade officials said here Thursday.

US trade officials, who declined to be named, were asked in a news briefing about the prospect of the archrivals joining the World Trade Organization by the time of the Nov. 9 to 13 Doha conference.

"We believe that the current process is moving along in a very constructive way and that there certainly is a real prospect of that happening at the time of Doha," a US trade official said. *AFP*

Korea spends $10B since crisis

SEOUL—South Korea said on Friday that it had spent 137.5 trillion won ($110 billion) in public funds to restructure banks and corporations in the wake of the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis.

So far, the government has recovered 34.2 trillion won and about one-fourth of the total was unlikely to be recouped, the Finance and Economy Ministry said in a statement. *Reuters*

HK to post weaker GDP

HONG KONG—Hong Kong is expected to report on Friday that economic growth in the second quarter slowed to its lowest level since the spring of 1999 due to shrinking world demand for its exports and weak consumer spending.

The government is also expected to slash its full-year growth forecast of 3 percent at the same time. *Reuters*

Indonesia told to stop graft

JAKARTA, Indonesia—The World Bank has told Indonesia to crack down on corruption if the cash-strapped Southeast nation wants to receive more development loans, a news report said Friday.

"The more confidence we have the money is well spent, the more willing we will be to lend," the bank's Indonesian director Mark Baird was quoted as saying by the Jakarta Post newspaper.

"Corrupt projects are bad projects and they should be stopped dead in their tracks," Baird said at a ceremony to mark the handover of around $448 million in loans and grants, according to the daily.

Hitachi to cut 14,700 jobs

TOKYO—Japanese electronics leader Hitachi Ltd. said Friday that it plans to cut 14,700 jobs and expects a 140 billion yen ($1.2 billion) group net loss in the year to March 2002. *AFP*

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BILL C. SAMSON

Peacefully joined our Creator
on August 31, 2001
at the age of 54.

He is reunited with his beloved wife **MYRNA**;
and father **REYNALDO**.

His loving mother **RUFINA**;
children **ANGEL & IAN ANTONIO, JOWETT, BILLY** and **CHRISTIAN**;
brothers and sisters **ROLANDO & EMILIE** and **LOIDA & EDGAR CASTAÑEDA**;
grandchildren, relatives and friends
request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his maternal residence
in Poblacion, San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 4
at Angelicum Memorial Park,
San Ildefonso, Bulacan
after the 8:00 AM Mass at
the San Ildefonso Parish Church.

DR. VALENTIN A. FIDELINO, M.D.

December 16, 1908 - August 30, 2001

Died peacefully after receiving the Sacrament of Extreme Unction.

Husband of **Lucille Lazaro-Fidelino** (†); father of **Lelu F. Barredo** and **Roberto Fidelino**; brother of **Encarnacion Velasquez** (†), **Gregorio Plana** (†), **Guillermo Plana** (†), **Francisco Fidelino** (†), **Concepcion Pangan** (†), **Teodora Avecilla** (†), **Antonio Fidelino** (†), **Rodesinda Madlangbayan, Benjamin** (†), **Eduardo** (†), **Antonia**; brother-in-law of **Angel Lazaro Jr.**

His remains lie in state at 217 Gen. Luna Street, Concepcion, Malabon City.

Holy Mass will be offered at home, Sunday, September 2, 2001 at 12 noon.

Interment will follow at the Holy Cross Memorial Park at 3:00 PM, Divine Mercy Hour.

VICENTE G. PADLAN

of San Carlos, Pangasinan

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 26, 2001 at the age of 83.

His remains lie at Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati.

Interment will be tomorrow, Sunday, September 2, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass and will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.

2 Cor. 5:4-5

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GREGORIA BONA BLANDO

of Makati City

Died on August 29, 2001 at the age of 89.

Her bereaved children **DR. GENE BLANDO, FELICIDAD, ERNESTO, ALFREDO, LITO, AMPARO, CESAR, JAIME** and **LEILA**; sister **YANANG**; and grandchildren request the readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at 2453 Osmeña St., Makati City.

Interment will be on Sept. 05, 2001 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass and will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

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NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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*5227528*5244189*5244203*5244205*5244184
Fax No. 5219468

INVITATION TO BID

(Republication)

The Natural Resources Development Corporation will receive sealed bids on or before September 17, 2001 at 2:00 PM for the bidding on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis for the forest products described below:

LOCATION/DEPOSITORY AREA	ESTIMATED VOLUME/NO. OF PCS.	SPECIES/FORM
Brgy. Cabigaan, Aborlan, Palawan	689.21 cubic meters	Logs
Luzon Mahogany Timber Corp. (LUZMATIM) Brgy. Calumangin, Gumaca, Quezon	54.14 cubic meters	Assorted species (round logs)
Mr. Epifanio Bernardo Cmpd. Brgy. Sabang, Mauban, Quezon	77.48 cubic meters	Round logs
CENRO Cmpd., Real, Quezon	2,154.00 board feet	Assorted Lauan (logs & flitches)
CENRO Cmpd., Real, Quezon	1,849.00 board feet	Common Hardwood (lumber)
CENRO Cmpd., Real, Quezon Brgy. Kinanliman, Real Quezon	8,358.00 board feet 5.32 cubic meters	Lauan (flitches) Common Hardwood (logs)
BUNSACO Inc. Cmpd., Maug, Butuan City	66,011.00 board feet/ 21,021.00 pieces	Assorted species (lumber)
Freedom Woodcraft Cmpd., Butuan City	11,550.58 board feet/ 1,947 pieces	Lauan and Misc. species

Only legitimate timber licensees, log and lumber dealers, sawmills operators, plywood, veneer, paper mills and NACIDA Registered Industries, in case of those engaged in forest product other than wood, shall be allowed to participate in the bidding.

Deadline for the submission of the pre-qualification requirements shall be on September 10, 2001 at 5:00 PM.

The envelope containing the bids should be sealed and plainly marked "BID."

Forms and details and other information relative hereto are available from the Chairman, Bids and Awards Commitee, NRDC 9th Floor, 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, City of Manila.

The NRDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to accept only such bids deemed advantageous to the NRDC

(Sgd.) ATTY. DIOGENES S. FERREZ
Chairman BAC

(PDI – Sept. 1, 2 & 3, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the:
Supply of:

62 AGRICULTURAL FARM TRACTORS
(WITH AND WITHOUT FARM IMPLEMENTS)

Brand	No. of Units	Farm Implements	Budget Per Unit
John Deere 6610	39	Mouldboard Plow	Php2,000,000.00
6506	6	No attachment	1,800,000.00
	1	Disc Plow	2,000,000.00
6205	5	No attachment	1,600,000.00
Massey Ferguson 4270	4	Mouldboard Plow	2,000,000.00
4255	1	Mouldboard Plow	1,980,000.00
390E	5	Disc Plow	1,500,000.00
Landini 115	1	Mouldboard Plow	2,000,000.00

Total Budget : Php118,280,000.00
To be delivered to different points in the Philippines
Quotations shall indicate cost of units with and without farm implements.

Only pre-qualified bidders as of **September 11, 2001** shall be allowed to participate in the Public Bidding to be held on September 17, 2001 at the SRA Social Hall at 9:00 a.m.

Pre-qualification forms shall be issued starting **September 3, 2001** and the deadline for the submission of said requirements shall be on **September 6, 2001**.

The list of qualified bidders shall be released on **September 11, 2001**. Thereafter, bid forms shall be issued for a non-refundable cost of Php500.00 each.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on **September 13** at the SRA Social hall at 9:00 a.m.

All bids must be accompanied by bid bonds in the amount of 5% of the total cost of the tender or offer-either in cash, Manager's check of GSIS bond.

For further inquiries, please call:

THE SECRETARIAT
SRA Bidding and Awards Commitiee
Tel. No. 929-6837

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or defect therein, and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to the SRA.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI - Sept 1, 2 & 3, 2001)

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

SCRA publisher garners more awards

MENTION the acronym "SCRA" in the presence of any Filipino lawyer, and instant recognition of the Supreme Courts Reports Annotated is guaranteed. During the recent Supreme Court Centennial celebration, Central, the publishers of SCRA, were merited with a special citation for its contribution as a respected scholarly reference in the field of law.

SCRA sat its birth over fifty years ago, when the Central Publishers volunteered to step in and assist the highest court in the land in expediting the printing of the Supreme Court decisions, better known as the Philippine Reports. Today, some 33 volumes later and counting, SCRA is the most widely accepted scholarly reference in the field.

At recent award ceremonies held at the Supreme Court Centennial Building, led by no less than Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Central's publications garnered more awards than any other publisher in the country.

Among the prestigious list are: "The Revised Penal Code, 1997 edition," and "The Civil Code of the Philippines, 1990 edition" by Justices Ramon C. Aquino and Carolina Grino-Aquino"; "Jottings and Jurisprudence in Civil Law; Succession, 1998 edition," by professor Ruben F. Batane; "Comments and Cases on Civil Law: Civil Code of the Philippines, 1983 edition" by Justice Eduardo P. Caguioa; "The Corporation Code: Comments, Notes and Selected Cases 1990 edition" by Justice Jose C. Campos and Maria Clara Lopez-Campos; "Constitutional Law, 2000 edition" by Justice Isagani A. Cruz; "Civil Procedure Annotated, 2001 edition" by Justice Jose Y. Feria and lawyer Maria Concepcion S. Noche; "The Constitution of the Philippines," second edition 1977 by Justice Chief Enrique M. Fernando; "Political Law Compendium" 2001 edition by Jacinto D. Jimenez;

"Criminal Law," 1998 edition Book 1 by Justice Ruperto Kapunan Jr., "Commentaries and Jurisprudence of the Philippine Commercial Law" volumes 1-4 by Justice Teodorico C. Martin; "Bar Review Guide in Political Law," 1997 edition by Justice Vicente V. Mendoza; "Legal and Judicial Ethics," 1999 edition and "The Family Code of the Philippines, Annotated: E.O. 209, 1999 edition," both authored by Commissioner Ernesto Pineda; "Modern Philippine Legal Forms 1995 reprinting" by Sen. Lorenzo M. Tanada and Sen. Francisco Rodrigo; "Commentaries on the Revised Tariff and Customs Codes of the Philippines. Presidential Decree No. 1464 as amended by EC 688, 5th edition 1991-92 by lawyer Montano Tejam; "Commentaries and Jurisprudence on the Civil Code of the Philippines," by Sen. Arturo Tolentino; "Muslim Code of the Philippines, 1984 edition" by Jainal D. Rasul; "Labor and Social Legislations in the Philippines, volumes 1-2, 1963" by P.V. Fernandez and Camillo D.Quiason; and "An Introduction to Philippine Law" by lawyer Melquiades Gamboa.

Today, when all eyes of the nation are focused on witnessing the wheels of justice move faster and equally, Central recognizes the need to cater to the specific needs of the public today. At the moment, the publishers are looking at better ways to continue to efficiently deliver reliable and accurate legal information at an affordable rate.

Central is now forging its way into the next millennium with its upcoming SCRA-Online web-based service. It is poised to address the current difficulties and shortcomings that other electronic products are said to currently suffer. SCRA-Intelligent Search, SCRA-Accurate Information, as well as the SCRA-True Citation and Annotation as well as the full index will be part of this standard setting service. Soon to be relaunched is its online information and web bookstore, www.central.com.ph, where customers can browse each title, order online and even download electronic versions of the publications.

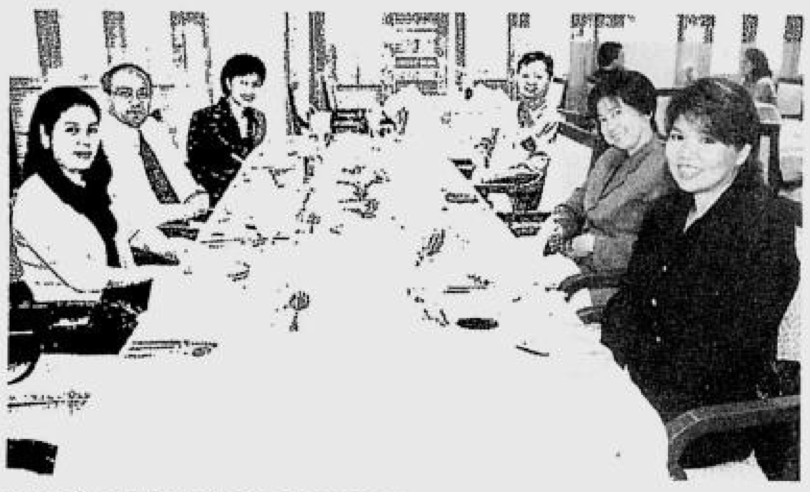
The newly renovated Central Bookstore branch located at the ground floor of the Ever Gotesco Mall in Manila is restocked on a daily basis to serve the nonstop needs of its customers for the latest SCRA volumes and their other best selling legal reference books. For more information, watch out for www.central.com.ph by September with a highly informational website all about Central's newest publications.

AD COMPANY PAVES ROAD

MacGraphics Carranz, the leading outdoor advertising company in the country today, donated the paved way from Edsa to the Our Lady of Guadalupe Minor Seminary as part of its socio-civic corporate thrust. Shown during the blessing and ribbon-cutting ceremony were (from left) Msgr. Dennis Odiver, Most Rev. Bishop Tom Yalung, showbiz personality Gamaliel Viray, MacGraphics Carranz president Alvin M. Carranza, TV director Maning Rivera and Rev. Fr. Cesar Buhat.

AEGON LAUNCHES 1ST MULTIPLE OPTION UNIVERSAL LIFE PLAN

Now, Filipinos can enjoy the power of flexibility. This revolutionary product offers premium flexibility, complete protection and a cash value savings program all rolled into one. The momentous event happened Aug. 11 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. Present was showbiz personality Giselle Sanchez (center) with Aegon officers and World Marketing Alliance (WMA) representatives to witness how the product will change the country's trend in the insurance industry.

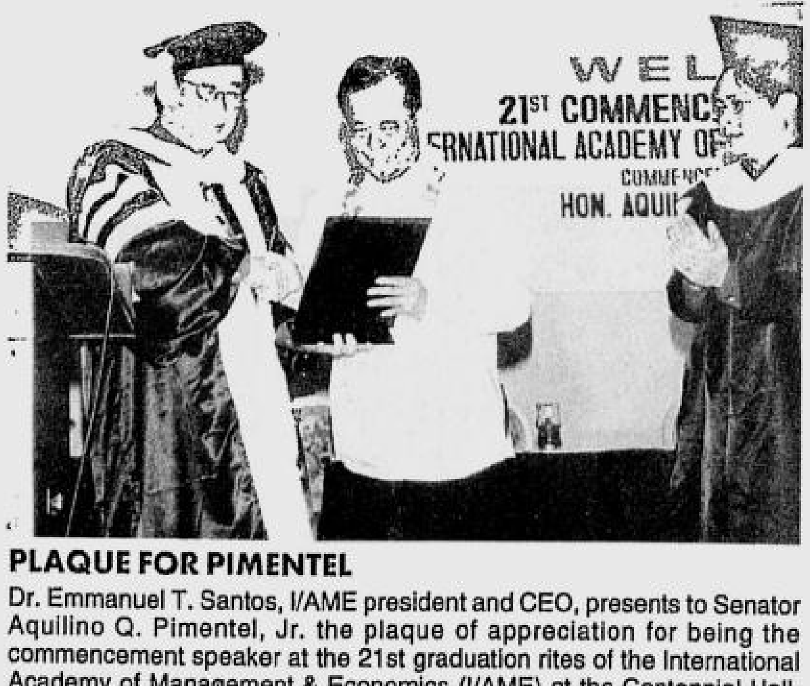


RICHMONDE GM'S LUNCH

In an effort to keep in constant touch with loyal corporate clients, The Richmonde Hotel recently tendered a special lunch for representatives of select companies. Hosted by the hotel's managing director, the lunch took place at the Richmonde Grill, the hotel's main dining outlet located at the second level. The lunch provided a venue for the clients to discuss their expectations and for the hotel to renew its commitment to serve their needs. The Richmonde Hotel is located at the heart of Ortigas Center and just a few minutes away from prime business addresses in the country. Shown are representatives of different companies with Carmen Fernando, managing director of The Richmonde Hotel (second from right) and Mellissa Ledesma, director of sales and marketing (farthest from left).

'BIGAY-TODONG INA'

Selecta brand manager Lee Esguerra (right) poses with the first-ever winner of the Selecta 'Bigay-Todong Ina' awardee, Elvira Nonato-Estuita (second from right). A nurse and mother of three, Estuita was chosen for her dedication to her family and compassion for her patients. She also won the Ulirang Ina sectoral award for medicine and allied sciences from the National Mother's Day and Father's Day Foundation of the Philippines Inc. Also shown are (from left) Elvira's kids Maria Kristine Karla; Maria Kathreen Cathy; Mariane Kimberly Andrea and Elvira's husband Arthur.



PLAQUE FOR PIMENTEL

Dr. Emmanuel T. Santos, I/AME president and CEO, presents to Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr. the plaque of appreciation for being the commencement speaker at the 21st graduation rites of the International Academy of Management & Economics (I/AME) at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel, while professor Emmanuel Candido Santos II watches.

UST Commerce alumni homecoming: swinging '70s

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas College of Commerce will hold a Grand Alumni Homecoming on Sept. 21 at the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati City to be led by host and organizer batch 1976, this year's silver jubilarians, the UST College of Commerce Alumni Foundation Inc. announced recently.

As a culminating activity of the college's 68th foundation celebrations, the homecoming affair will draw a big number of alumni and guests from here and abroad. This year's alumni bash whose theme "Swinging'76: Reliving a magical past!" will transport them back to the cheesy decade of the '70s featuring songs, dances and audio-visual presentations interspersed in a magical show that reflects the swinging mood of the era.

Tickets are available at P700 each from the organizing committee, which can be e-mailed at USTcommercealumni@yahoogroups.com. Interested alumni can also call Tenny Menorca, 886-3084; Princess Imperial, 894-5429; Irene Arroyo, 687-0076; Helen Ku, 941-9590 or professor Fe Bruselas, UST Commerce Alumni Foundation adviser, fax 781-6629 or call 731-3101 local 8374

JWT shares creative education

AS the pioneer communications agency, J. Walter Thompson is duty-bound to promote creative education in the country.

The agency's long-running outreach college program is now enhanced with a college scholarship and creative training module.

The scholarship is called the JWT-Malang Fund in honor of Mauro Malang Santos, recognized as one of the living legends in Philippine visual arts. With this project, JWT donates P100,000 annually for deserving students taking up Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines in Diliman and in Baguio.

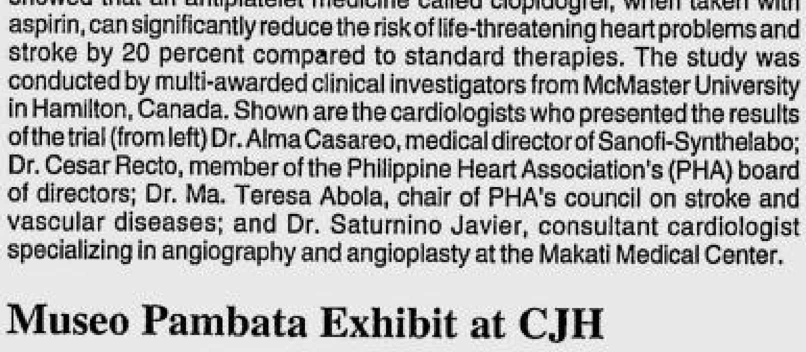
For marketing practitioners, JWT's new offering is a one-day creative thinking module called "Twisted Thinking", the JWT Fresh Ideas Workshop. Inspired by the methods of such creativity gurus as Edward De Bono and Richard Von Oech, among others, the course is designed to harness the imaginative prowess of professionals, including those who think of themselves as "non-artists."

JWT Manila, which recently shared top honors in the Creative Guild Ad of the Year Awards, combines fresh creativity with proprietary Thompson Total Branding (TTB) tools to propel brands to market leadership. The agency's creative head is happy that JWT's new commercials, aside from earning favorable reviews both locally and internationally, actually contributed dramatic sales achievements. JWT's newest works include Carl's Jr. "Monks", Red Horse "Sorry" and Joy Pop Up "Bukid".

he fastest ute to FREE
000 Asia Miles

HER DREAM DESTINATION, FOR FREE

New Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa cardholder Rosario Cruz (center) is congratulated by Citibank, N.A. marketing services vice president Cecille Fonacier (left) and program manager Tina Roy after winning in the 2 Million Asia Miles Lucky Draw promotion. Cruz won 100,000 Asia Miles, which she can choose to spend on over 850 destinations with 13 leading airlines. Asia Miles is the leading travel reward program in Asia, where earned mileage points can be used to redeem free trips or upgrades. A teacher at the Marikina High School, Cruz has been a long-time Citibank cardholder and only recently applied for a new card. Cruz can spend her winnings on a Hong Kong trip (25,000 Asia Miles) or a Sydney tour (45,000 Asia Miles) or visits to Europe or the United States (60,000 Asia Miles). Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa is the lone credit card in the market that provides cardholders the fastest route to free travel with all purchases convertible to Asia Miles. Get that free trip or upgrade soon, while enjoying all the global conveniences of a Citibank credit card.



HEART DRUG REDUCES RISK OF HEART ATTACK

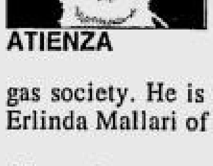
Heart specialists yesterday revealed the positive results of an international clinical trial called CURE at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. The research showed that an antiplatelet medicine called clopidogrel, when taken with aspirin, can significantly reduce the risk of life-threatening heart problems and stroke by 20 percent compared to standard therapies. The study was conducted by multi-awarded clinical investigators from McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada. Shown are the cardiologists who presented the results of the trial (from left) Dr. Alma Casareo, medical director of Sanofi-Synthelabo; Dr. Cesar Recto, member of the Philippine Heart Association's (PHA) board of directors; Dr. Ma. Teresa Abola, chair of PHA's council on stroke and vascular diseases; and Dr. Saturnino Javier, consultant cardiologist specializing in angiography and angioplasty at the Makati Medical Center.

BITS Clips

CCP ANI 27 launched

THE LITERATURE Division of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) will launch ANI 27 (Millennium issue) on Sept. 2 at 6 p.m. during the ''Full Moons by the Bay'' at the Manila Film Center sponsored by Viva Mineral Water, Cerveza Negra, Cali Shandy, San Mig Light, San Miguel Beer, Coca-Cola and Sprite. The launching program, a "Poetry and Music" production of the CCP literature and film divisions, will feature leading exponents of alternative Filipino music as well as a fiction and poetry slam by contributors and young poets. For details, call the CCP literature division at 832-1125 locals 1706 and 1707

Filipino Harvard MBA Graduate



ATIENZA

MICHAEL Getty Atienza graduated from Harvard Business School with a Master in Business Administration degree last June. Michael Getty is also an alumnus of Ateneo de Manila University where he doubled-majored in BS Management Engineering and AB Economics-Honors, graduating in 1996 as Magna Cum Laude and Valedictorian. At Harvard, he was president of his section and a president of the Harvard Business School oil and gas society. He is the son of Nestor Atienza of Cuenca, Batangas and Erlinda Mallari of Manila.

'Loving myself' workshops

DO you want to come to terms with your past? Do you want to move towards greater wholeness and personal integration? Care and Counsel Wholeness Center invites you to join its "Loving Myself Workshop Series", support group workshops designed for men and women in search of healing, wholeness and greater happiness in life. The first set of workshops is set today, Sept. 1 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Care and Counsel Office in Sta. Mesa, Manila. For further details, call Khaycee Camposuelo at 713-4805 or 0919-458-4666.

Museo Pambata Exhibit at CJH

THE CJH Development Corp. (CJH DevCo) will host the Museo Pambata's Philippine Rainforest Traveling Exhibit at Camp John Hay, Baguio City from Sept. 1 to 30. Dubbed "Are You the Forest King?," the exhibit simulates a rainforest environment and aims to provide fist-hand experience in learning environmental concepts and principles in a fun and discovery atmosphere. "Are You the Forest King?" is a touching children's story by Penny Velaso about a little boy who wanders in a rainforest in search of the forest king. A giant book where visitors can get hold of the full account of the story will serve as one of the highlights of the exhibit. For more information, call the Camp John Hay Marketing and Public Relations Office at (074) 442-7902 to 08.

Floral Rhapsody in Manila

THE FLORAL Arts and Crafts Design Center Inc. (FACDCI) will conduct the Floral Rhapsody at the Ballroom of Saint Paul College of Manila today, Sept. 1, for the benefit of the Nayong Pilipino Foundation which will feature two of Asia's multi-awarded floral designers: Phubast "Poo" Chesdmethee of Thailand and Anson Low of Singapore, with the special participation of Rachy Cuna, the Floral Architect of the Philippines.

EPILEPSY

Discrimination starts at home, says study

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

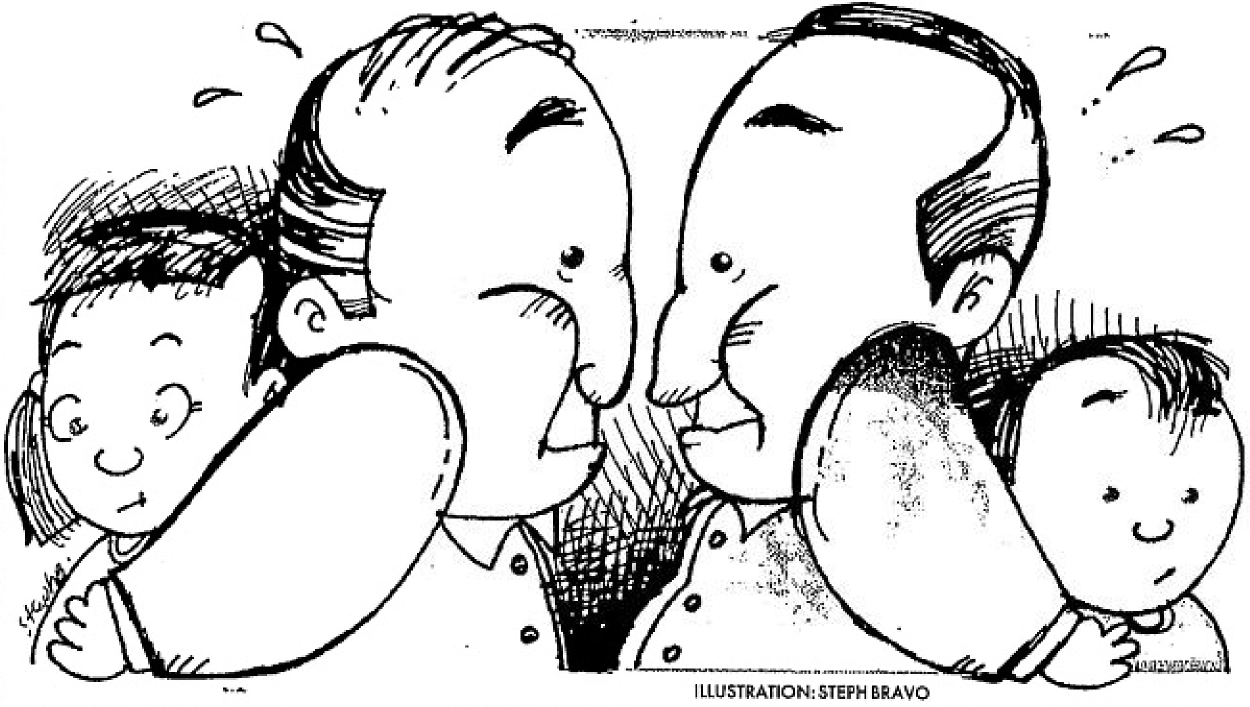


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

STATESMEN Napoleon Bonaparte, Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great, philosophers Socrates, Pythagoras, artists Vincent van Gogh, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, writers Edward Lear, Charles Dickens, Agatha Christie and Truman Capote were famous figures who left their indelible marks on society. Few know, however, that these people had epilepsy.

Why do people with epilepsy keep their disease hidden from the public?

Epilepsy is still often viewed with suspicion and misunderstanding. The Global Campaign Against Epilepsy said people with epilepsy are shunned by their communities and are left disadvantaged in terms of education and employment. These people, according to the Global Campaign, are "often burdened socially and economically."

Doctors Aida M. Salonga, Marissa B. Lukban and B.C. Sanchez of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital neurology and pediatrics sections conducted a survey to profile the public knowledge, attitude and practices about epilepsy. Of 153 participants (immediate family and caregivers of patients with epilepsy), 77 percent were parents and 19 percent were health workers.

While about 40 to 70 percent of the respondents believed their children would be able to live a normal life—finish college, get a job and have a family of their own—59.7 percent did not want their normal children to get married to someone with epilepsy.

"These respondents have children who have epilepsy, yet majority wouldn't allow their normal children to marry somebody with epilepsy. Within the family itself, there is already discrimination. How could you expect others to accept people with epilepsy?" said Dr. Leonor Cabral-Lim, president of the Philippine League Against Epilepsy, when asked to comment on the study.

The UP-PGH study also found that 46 percent would not allow children with epilepsy to indulge in strenuous activities.

The study described the prevailing mood among relatives of patients. Their emotions ranged from anger to fear to depression. A significant number have not fully accepted the condition of their epileptic family members and 16 percent blamed themselves for their children's condition.

The survey also asked the patients if their parents allowed them to join extra curricular activities or physical education in school—47 percent said yes, 39.5 percent said no.

The survey also indicated that 50 percent of the respondents thought that epilepsy could be cured. Although 67 percent believe that medicines would cure the condition, a significant number said they also resorted to nontraditional means such as rituals, prayer, herbal medicine and faith healers.

The survey revealed that the prevailing practices for patients undergoing active seizure "consist of primitive practices devoid of any scientific basis."

Salonga said these involved fanning the patient, forcing a spoon or any solid material inside his mouth, putting pressure on his abdomen and biting his toes. Other "remedies" included massage, pinning the body against the floor, forcing the patient to drink liquids during the seizure and pouring cold water on the patient.

Cabral-Lim said that if people with hypertension, diabetes, asthma and heart ailments are not discriminated against in the workplace, there should be no reason for people with epilepsy to be left out. Continuous medication, she said, would prevent them from having seizures.

She cited a World Health Organization report describing that compared with other chronic diseases, epilepsy carries a stigma that is a major obstacle to treatment. A Canadian study also found that people with epilepsy had "more days off work, a lower annual income and a lower quality of life than people with other chronic illnesses."

(Note: The Philippine League Against Epilepsy Inc., the local chapter of the International League Against Epilepsy, is holding its first congress on Sept. 7 and 8 at the Westin Philippine Plaza. It intends to inform and teach physicians, other interested parties and affected individuals and their families about epilepsy.)

More children than adults

MORE than 230 Filipinos per 100,000 population suffer from epilepsy. Of this number, 180 are children less than 5 years old, according to recent figures of the Philippine Neurological Association.

The Philippines has 150 certified neurologists, specialists who are most qualified to attend to the treatment of people with epilepsy. There are seven training institutions in neurology and about five residents are trained per program.

About 85 percent of neurologists are found in the National Capital Region. There is at least one neurologist in every region of the country.

TRS

Living with epilepsy

EPILEPSY is caused by an abnormal electrical discharge from the brain. It's a chronic brain disorder that causes recurrent seizures in varying intensities. Anybody can have epilepsy—from the newborn to the elderly. The causes range from genetic abnormalities, brain infections, tumors, strokes and trauma, to developmental and degenerative conditions.

The good news is, given proper treatment, 70 to 80 percent of people with epilepsy can lead normal lives.

Starting with monotherapy, the patient is administered a particular drug of choice until the maximum dose is reached. About 60-80 percent of patients would respond to one drug, another 20 percent would need two drugs. About 10-12 percent would be considered "difficult to treat."

In the Philippines, most patients would choose phenobarbital, the cheapest drug that costs P1.75 each. On a dosage of two to three tablets per day, each adult would have to spend about P3,000 a year.

The drug however is subject to abuse as it is a barbiturate. A doctor needs a special permit called an S2 before he or she could prescribe phenobarbital.

Phenobarbital has many side effects. It could cause hyperactivity in children and cognitive effects, but Dr. Leonor Cabral-Lim of the Philippine League Against Epilepsy said this would be better than having repeated seizures that are traumatizing and dangerous for the patient.

Other drugs that are also used are phenytoin, carbamazetine and valproic acid. Phenytoin costs P18 per capsule and requires two to three dosages a day. Carbamazetine costs P12 per tablet with the same dosage.

There is also oxcarbazepine that has reduced its price from P28 to P18.

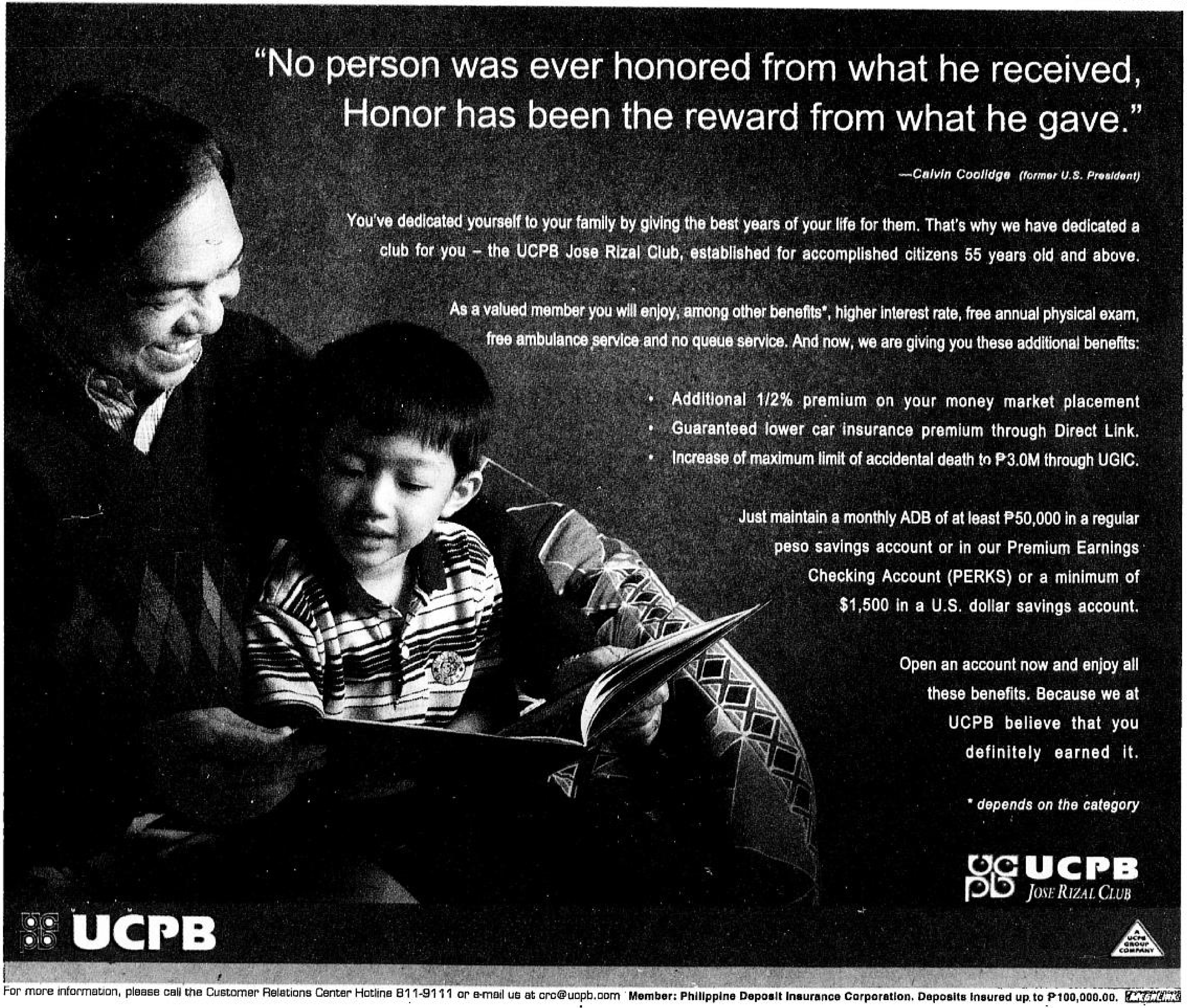
"You are talking of a treatment that costs P24 to P50 a day versus a P5 treatment with (phenobarbital)," Cabral-Lim said.

There are new generation drugs that promise fewer side effects, but are more expensive. The ones available in the Philippines are gabapentin, lamotrigine and topiramate. These drugs cost about P50, which means an expense of P100 to P200 on a dosage of two or three tablets daily.

"They are all effective, but the issue in choosing drugs would be the ease of use, the availability, the side effects and the cost," said Cabral-Lim. "Even if you end up treating patients with phenobarbital, it is still cost effective. They can work, they can be productive citizens."

Cabral-Lim said she still gets visits from former patients. They used to be children afraid of the treatment and were misunderstood by society. But now they are leading normal lives. Many of them have stable jobs and have families of their own.

Tessa R. Salazar



"No person was ever honored from what he received, Honor has been the reward from what he gave."

—Calvin Coolidge (former U.S. President)

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Laugh smoking away

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida—Two doctors are hoping their research will have patients laughing all the way to their last pack.

In a smoking cessation study at the Bayfront Medical Center, 10 of the 25 smokers who were given a mixture of 50 percent nitrous oxide ("laughing gas") and 50 percent oxygen over a five-month period completely stopped smoking. The other 15 made serious reductions in the number of cigarettes they smoke daily.

"The nitrous oxide released dopamine, which is a chemical in the brain that reduces the smokers' withdrawal symptoms," explained Dr. Jesse Haven.

Volunteers would arrive at the office of Haven and Dr. Allen Kuhn on their "quit day," the day they decided to stop smoking, then begin their daily 20-minute treatments, inhaling the mixture.

"We used the time limit of 20 minutes from studies done in South Africa on nitrous oxide given to alcoholics as they try to stop drinking. Dopamine in both drinkers and smokers affect both when they drink or smoke. The dopamine hormone makes them both happy," Haven said.

AFP

DOH, LGUs move to solve childbirth, pregnancy woes

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

ALARMED by the high incidence of women's death during pregnancy and childbirth, the Department of Health is mobilizing the country's local governments and other sectors in a concerted campaign to solve that problem.

The campaign was launched by the DOH amid an urgent need for clear, substantial and long-range interventions to improve the overall health, nutrition and family status of women.

Studies show that 10 Filipino women die every 24 hours from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Most are in the rural areas and of low income.

Major causes are lack of prenatal and postnatal checkups, complications in childbirth, infection due to unsterilized delivery at home, and below-standard nutrition, particularly Vitamin A, iron and iodine. Over 60 percent of pregnancies are high-risk.

The risk factor increases for mothers who are in poor health, who are younger (under 18) or older (over 35), and whose pregnancies are narrowly spaced. The risk also rises after the third pregnancy.

Even at birth, most children start life with a health and nutrition risk and much of these are caused by the health and nutrition status of the mother.

To address the problem squarely, the DOH is implementing the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project.

Started in 1996 and scheduled for completion this year, the project comprises civil works, logistics and training on maternal care.

The DOH is responsible for all technical and managerial directions, the local government units (LGUs) for the actual delivery of services, and the nongovernment organization (NGO) Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement for information dissemination.

The 5-year project involves the rehabilitation and construction of rural health units and barangay health stations in all of the country's 15 regions, excluding Metro Manila.

At the same time, hospitals run by the DOH and the LGUs nationwide are getting emergency obstetrical drugs and supplies, traditional birth attendant kits, food supplements (Vitamin A, iron, iodine) for pregnant women and lactating mothers, obstetrical kits for midwives and disposable home delivery kits for low-income women.

These materials, equipment and supplies are being provided by the DOH to the LGUs for distribution to their constituents through the health facilities in their respective areas.

Moreover, maternity waiting homes and lying-in clinics are being built in selected health facilities.

Government health workers involved in maternal care services are also being trained, with distance learning programs being provided to those assigned in remote areas.

The project also covers logistical support for the detection and treatment of reproductive tract infection, cervical cancer and other diseases that pose a threat to healthy pregnancy and childbirth.

Filipino children need fiber

FILIPINO kids need fiber, along with the essential vitamins and minerals, in order to maintain a healthy digestive system and absorb all the nutrients they need while growing up.

This was revealed by Dr. Trinidad P. Trinidad of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology.

Fiber, the nondigestible part of food, keeps the digestive system healthy. It can be found in fruits, vegetables and grains.

"Children as young as 2 years should start dietary fiber intake because fiber helps in mineral absorption," said Dr. Trinidad of the FNRI.

"Fiber keeps children healthy by preventing diarrhea, constipation and gastrointestinal diseases," noted Dr. Trinidad.

She and her co-researchers from the FNRI and the Department of Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Medicine of the University of Toronto in Canada, found out that fermentable soluble fiber is a vital nutrient that aids in mineral absorption in the colon.

"Soluble fiber is a type of dietary fiber that helps prevent heart and long-term diseases," said Dr. Trinidad. She added that "Bran, whole wheat, carrots and apples are excellent sources of soluble fiber."

"The other type is insoluble fiber that prevents constipation and protects the colon against cancer. Colon is the main part of the large intestine that absorbs water from the undigested food," she explained.

Insoluble fibers are present in strawberries, citrus fruits, potatoes, oatmeal and dried beans.

In a similar study conducted by Dr. M.B. Roberfroid of the Catholic University of Belgium, he found out that "the natural inulin fiber has similar characteristics as the fermentable soluble fiber."

"Inulin produces four times more butyrate—or food of the friendly microorganisms in the large intestine—than other dietary fiber," reported Dr. Roberfroid. "It stimulates the growth of friendly microorganisms that increases the body's resistance to infection."

Recognized in the United States, Europe and Japan for its healthful benefits, natural inulin fiber is now found in Lactum, the better alternative to full cream milk.

"New Lactum with Natural Inulin Fiber ensures mothers their kids get the most absorption out of their nutrition," said Guthrie Collado, Lactum associate product manager.

Much ado over interest rates

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

SINCE the vagaries of the stock market have made investments risky nowadays, most of us have no recourse but to stick to the good old bank. We try to maximize our efforts by comparing interest rates and getting the best deal possible. Interest rate computations, though, confound a lot of people (myself included—especially when they deviate from the normal). I wrote an article explaining the basic principles (and formulas) of interest rates a few years back. Now we return to this topic once more, albeit a more complicated one this time.

I. Kier (movall@pworld.net.ph) has this hypothetical scenario:

I am a reader of your column and I want to know if you can help me. I found the formula for compound interest through the Internet, but I want to know if there is one that will allow me to factor in additional principals every month. The formula I found computed for the results when you factor in the principal, the interest and the time. But the principal remained the same. What I am hoping to find, short of having to compute for each month for the next five years, is a compounded interest formula that allows you to increase the principal at a fixed rate as well.

The math problem is: If I have P20,000 and I am going to earn seven percent per annum reprised monthly, and each month I will add another P20,000, how much money will I have at the end of five years?

I decided to throw this problem to my husband, who is a management major. Indeed, with the help of his HP calculator, he came up with the answer within a few minutes. He cross-checked the answer with the help of an Excel worksheet. I was impressed.

However, as a math professor, I am not so much interested in the final answer as in the steps of the solution. The best way to explain it is to see what happens every month. Is there a pattern?

Given the scenario above, at the first month, with the initial investment of P20,000, you will receive: $20{,}000\ (1 + .07/12)$. I am sure this is familiar to you, since you know the standard formulas for simple and compound interest.

You add another P20,000—and of course, we assume that you do not take out what you invested in the first month. (You would already have earned some interest for the first month.) For the second month, you will receive a total amount of:

$$20{,}000\ (1 + .07/12)^2 + 20{,}000\ (1 + .07/12)$$

You add another P20,000 for the third month. Assuming that you do not touch what you have earned in the first two months, at this point you will receive a total amount of:

$$20{,}000\ (1 + .07/12)^3 + 20{,}000\ (1 + .07/12)^2 + 20{,}000\ (1 + .07/12)$$

I am sure you can see the pattern developing here. At the nth month, you will receive the amount of $20{,}000\ (1 + .07/12)^n$ plus all the rest of the amount garnered in the $(n - 1)$ months. At the end of five years, what will you have?

There are 60 months in five years, so n here will be equal to 60. Thus, at the 60th month, at the end of five years, you will receive a grand total of:

$$20{,}000\ (1 + .07/12)^{60} + 20{,}000\ (1 + .07/12)^{59} + \ldots + 20{,}000\ (1 + .07/12)$$

Is there a formula for this amount? Indeed, there is. First, notice that you can factor out the constant 20,000 from the equation. You will then end up with this:

$$20{,}000\ [\ (1 + .07/12)^{60} + (1 + .07.12)^{59} + \ldots + (1 + .07.12)\ ]$$

Is there a way to add the 60 terms in the brackets? Yes. Those 60 terms form what algebra students call a geometric series. (You can look this up in any beginning algebra text—or even the Net.) What is a geometric series? It is just a series of numbers which have a common ratio. For instance, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32 is a geometric series whose initial number is 2 and common ratio is 2. That is, 2(2) = 4, 4(2) = 8, 8(2) = 16, 16(2) = 32. For our purposes, the important thing is the sum of a geometric series. If the first term is a and the common ratio is r, then the sum S of the first n terms of a geometric series is given by the formula:

$$S = \frac{a\,(1 - r^n)}{1 - r}$$

In your case, let us read the terms in the series from right to left. Since we are doing addition, it does not really matter if we add from left to right or from right to left. (Algebra students would call this property commutativity.) Anyway, let us take our first term as 1 + .07/12. The common ratio is also 1 + .07/12. (Why? To get from the first term to the second term, we multiply the first term by itself.) There are 60 terms.

By the formula for the sum, we have

$$S = \frac{(1 + .07/12)\ [1 - (.07/12)^{60}]}{1 - (1 + .07/12)}$$

With a calculator, you should be able to calculate S, which turns out to be around 72.01. (This is an approximation, because the fraction does not yield an exact number.) Remember that you still need to multiply this by 20,000. The answer will then be:

20,000 (72.01) which is equal to P1, 440, 210.

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She also writes the Wednesday column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net. Send your questions c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Math Dept., Loyola Heights, Quezon City or e-mail at: blessbook@yahoo.com.)

Laban sa
A Pa ship Program V
ist TB
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LAUNCH KIT TURNOVER

GlaxoSmithKline Foundation executive director Noel R. Isberto and Philippine Tuberculosis Society Inc. president Zeneida Quezon-Avanceña, second from right, turn over a launch kit to Zambales Microscopy Center head Lydia Vasquez, second from left, during a forum for regional PTSI branch heads. The forum oriented PTSI branch heads on how to effectively launch "DOTS: Laban sa TB" in their respective areas.

The case of the sore calf (a rejoinder)

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, MD

MEDICAL FILES

IF the number of e-mail messages can be considered a good indicator, quite a good number of people got alarmed by our discussion in this column about the risk of developing rhabdomyolysis with the use of drugs to lower cholesterol (PDI, 8/18/01). Rhabdomyolysis is a potentially fatal problem characterized by the extensive breakdown or destruction of skeletal muscles causing diffuse muscle pains and weakness.

The alarm was further intensified when Bayer, a prestigious multinational pharmaceutical company, voluntarily pulled out of the market its cerivastatin (Lipobay) due to increasing reports of rhabdomyolysis when it is combined with gemfibrozil, which is another drug commonly prescribed to lower cholesterol. Rather than answer all the e-mail and letter senders one by one, which I usually do but which I'm afraid might take me several months this time, I thought it best to write this rejoinder which should serve as a generic answer to all those who wrote me.

We need to put things in proper perspective. Although the complication of rhabdomyolysis may be potentially serious and even life-threatening, the risk of getting it with the proper use of cholesterol-lowering drugs, particularly those belonging to the *statin* family, is quite nil. If one had significantly elevated cholesterol levels, the risk of developing heart attacks and strokes, which are also life-threatening, is definitely much higher by not taking *statins* or other cholesterol-lowering drugs. The benefit therefore of these drugs far outweighs the potential adverse effects such as rhabdomyolysis.

Safety review

Rhabdomyolysis is a rare adverse effect of all *statins*. The occasional documented reports include those who were taking *statins* alone, or in combination with other cholesterol-lowering drugs such as gemfibrozil. In the case of cerivastatin, practically all the reports were in those taking the combination. I understand that in Japan, cerivastatin was not withdrawn since gemfibrozil is not commercially available there.

The director of the US FDA's office of drug evaluation said in an official statement that at the moment it is not considering any regulatory action on the other approved *statins*. The European drug regulatory authorities also see no immediate need to change the current labeling for *statins*. Both the US and European authorities are however likely to initiate a safety review on the use of *statins* in view of the reports of rhabdomyolysis with cerivastatin.

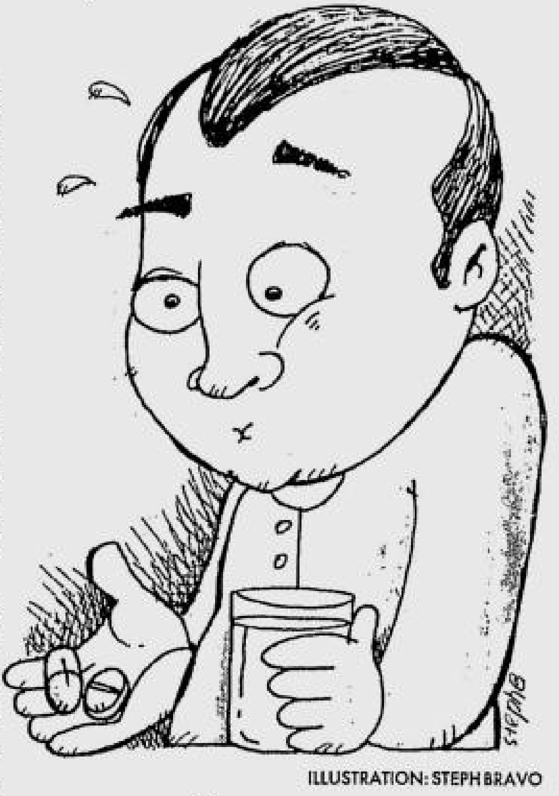

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Reassurance

Our friends from Novartis Philippines, Dr. Leo Marchosky (president and CEO), Bernie Belen (marketing director) and John Dumpit (product manager), wrote to reassure everyone of the safety and tolerability of fluvastatin (Lescol). In fact, the company has just launched the more potent Lescol XL. The three top executives of Novartis said it has passed all the safety requirements and it provides comprehensive cholesterol management with reductions in the bad cholesterol (LDL) and triglycerides of up to 38 percent and 31 percent, respectively, and powerful increases in the good cholesterol (HDL) of up to 21 percent.

In a clinical trial by Professor Isaacson involving 8,951 patients, the frequency of creatine phosphokinase (CPK) elevation (which when markedly elevated would indicate rhabdomyolysis) was very low and not different from placebo (dummy pills). No cases of rhabdomyolysis were reported in this study. Other clinical trials demonstrated good tolerability with the drug, either as monotherapy or together with other cholesterol-lowering drugs such as fenofibrate, bezafibrate and gemfibrozil.

Well-tolerated statins

Dr. Tony Leachon, a favorite *inaanak* (godson) of mine who is now the medical director of Pfizer Philippines, and his assistant, Dr. James Wee, also sent a letter to allay any concern on the safety of atorvastatin (Lipitor) across the dose range from 10 to 80 milligrams. Tony and James stressed that *statins* are generally well-tolerated with no significant differences in safety. The muscle-toxic adverse effects related to treatment with *statins*, also known as HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, are rarely noted in this class of drug.

Atorvastatin, which is the most prescribed *statin* worldwide, now has over 20 million patient-years of experience. The most common adverse effects, noted in 2.7 percent of patients taking it, were constipation, flatulence, indigestion and abdominal pain. Even with the highest dose (80 mg), the 1,700 patients who completed the clinical trial gave no report of any possible rhabdomyolysis. Discontinuation due to adverse effects was similar to placebo. Tony and James assure all those who are taking Lipitor of its excellent safety and efficacy. Coming from these two bright and dedicated young doctors, you can sleep soundly at night after taking your bedtime dose of Lipitor.

Well-studied statin

Dr. Jimmy Montoya, medical director of Bristol-Myers Squibb and a collegue of mine in the Department of Medicine of the Manila Sanitarium Hospital, also sent a letter detailing the safety and efficacy of pravastatin (Lipostat). To the drug's credit, it is one of the most well-studied *statins*. It is supported by several landmark trials such as the Woscops, CARE and Lipid trials. These are all nice-sounding acronyms for easy recall since the complete names of all the trials are difficult to remember.

For all those who e-mailed me, sent me letters and text messages, called me up and all the rest whom my article may have put in a quandary or worse, a debate with their doctors whether they should continue taking their cholesterol-lowering drugs or not, it is still safe to continue taking your pills. You stand to suffer more, if you don't take it when your doctor recommends that you do. The problem though may arise if you take it forever without being checked by your doctor from time to time. Periodically, it is ideal that your liver function or CPK levels be checked, especially if you have symptoms such as muscle pains and weakness. Otherwise, forget about rhabdomyolysis, unless you need a tongue-twister to exercise your tongue muscles with.

(Medical Files stresses the socio-psychological impact of disease on the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. For comments or inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

Junior health workers provide services to street children

TO IMPROVE the health of street and urban poor children in District 5 of Metro Manila, the Childhope Asia Philippines (CHAP), together with the support of the World Health Organization-Geneva, embarked on a pilot project popularly known as "Junior Health Workers."

The project has successfully trained 135 street adolescents on health issues like common ailments, personal hygiene, respiratory and skin diseases, STDs and AIDS. They were also trained by the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital Department of Emergency Medical Services for six months on basic life support and first aid. These certified paramedics refer children to health centers, administer first aid and conduct advocacy sessions on health and other important topics to street and urban poor children in their area. There are now 79 committed and responsible JHWs in active duty.

Having participated in this project, the JHWs feel a sense of pride and fulfillment, as they are able to help not only themselves but their peers as well. They serve as role models who encourage them to become more conscious of their health and lifestyle. The project continually provides the children with opportunities for meaningful and worthwhile activities.

The CHAP is a not-for-profit, nongovernment organization working to promote the welfare of street children in the Philippines and Asian regions.

Putting a period to your red days

A WOMAN menstruates approximately 500 times in her lifetime. Yet how much do most women know about their monthly period? A lot of women suffer from various sorts of discomfort during their monthly period. This seems to be the only misery associated with the woman's cycle

But women have to face the reality that during this period they are very different most especially when it comes to feminine hygiene. During these red days, women are most prone to feminine hygiene problems such as itching, irritation and possible infections. Blood in itself is a food for bacteria and therefore its presence makes women prone to overgrowth of infection-causing microorganisms. It is also during these days that women have a lower estrogen level, thereby altering the natural acidity of their genitals.

That's why during their monthly period, women need a special antiseptic wash that will give them superior protection during these delicate days. Betadine Feminine Wash is the only feminine antiseptic wash that has a special formulation that is perfect for a woman's monthly period need. It contains PVP-I, a clinically tested and long trusted antiseptic that kills all kinds of infection-causing bacteria or microorganisms. It eliminates the itching, irritation and bad odor caused by the presence of heavy blood flow.

Monthly period is more than treating PMS or adjusting to mood swings. It requires women to understand their uniqueness. Coupling this knowledge with a healthful lifestyle and superior hygiene protection, women can learn to enjoy and tune into their own rhythm—infection-free.

DHA-enhanced milk for smarter kids

MODERN moms agree that keeping kids smart and healthy requires not only the right nutrition, but also the right information on how to supplement their child's needs for optimum development. Always on the lookout for the recent progress in children's development, moms are guided by such information when it comes to providing for their child's nutritional needs.

Specifically, moms are very much interested in the development of their child's mental capabilities. Research has shown that most mothers realize the value of an excellent nutritional foundation to a child's mental advancement. In fact, brain development remains to be a primary concern among mothers, and this is a particular attribute that they look for in milk products and other nutritional supplements.

As their child grows, moms provide nutritional products that give the right amount of nutrients to keep kids healthy. Because most kids love to drink milk, moms often rely on milk products that can provide the right amount of vitamins and minerals for their child as well as enhance his or her mental capabilities. But during the 4th stage of development—ranging from ages 3 to 6—moms only have a limited choice of milk brands in the market that are specifically made for this age group.

Providing the best nutrition for children at Stage 4 is very important, as children in this particular phase of development are already in the "school age." Thus, the need to provide continued support for your child's brain development to help him face the learning challenges in school. Milk in general may be able to provide nutrients, but not the specific brain-building ingredients to maximize your child's brain development.

Fortunately, a Stage 4 milk has been formulated to meet the needs of children aged 3-6 years. Enfakid, developed by Mead Johnson, is the first Stage 4 milk in the local market fortified with DHA brain builders. Enfakid contains the right amount of vitamins, minerals and macronutrients that children aged 3-6 years old need to provide continued support for total body and brain development.

Because of the important role of DHA in brain development, this brain-building ingredient is added in Mead Johnson's line of milk products from birth to 1-3 years old with Stage 3 Enfagrow Growing Up Milk and all the way up to 3-6 years old with Stage 4 Enfakid. Because brain development is a continuous process, Mead Johnson's line of products provides the DHA brain-building advantage for every stage of a child's development.

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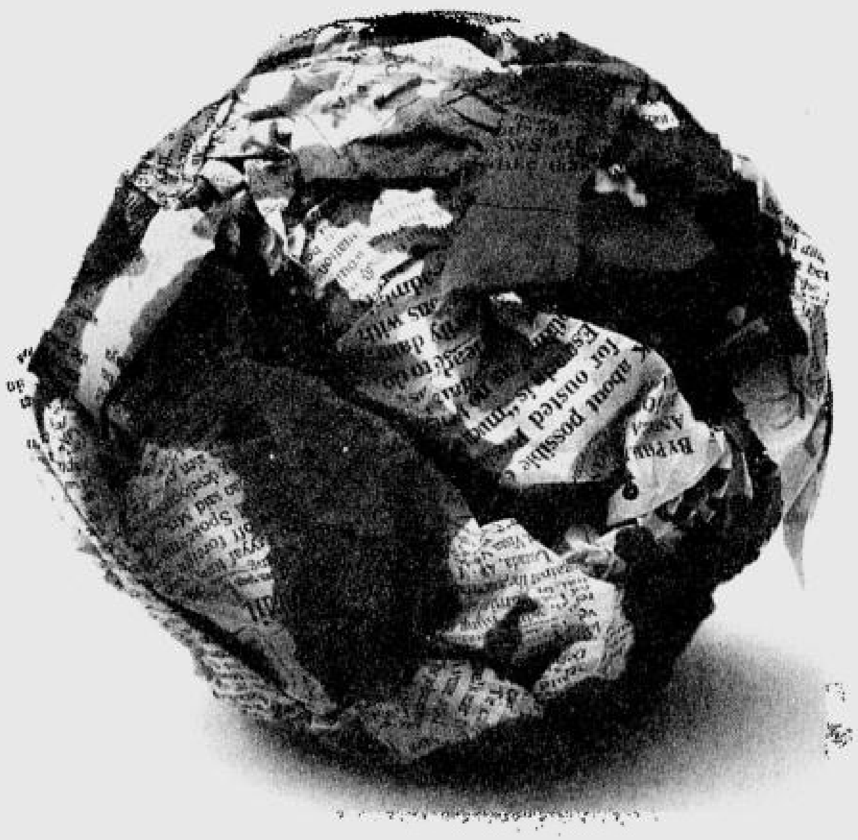

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Treat of the Week

Avocado Crab Ensemble

3 pcs Romaine lettuce (approximately 100 g), coarsely shredded
1/8 cup chopped wansoy
1 large avocado, peeled and sliced thinly
4 pcs crab sticks, shredded
1/2 cup chopped almonds

Dressing:
1 170 g. can NESTLÉ CREAM
2-3 tbsps lemon juice
1 tbsp chopped onions
1/4 cup NESTLÉ MAGNOLIA Fresh Milk
1/2 tsp sesame oil

Toss Romaine lettuce with chopped wansoy in a salad bowl until very well blended. Arrange on a platter. Arrange avocado slices and shredded crab sticks on top of lettuce and sprinkle with almonds. Set aside. Combine all ingredients for the dressing in a bowl. Serve with prepared salad.
Serves: 4 - 6

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 1, 2001
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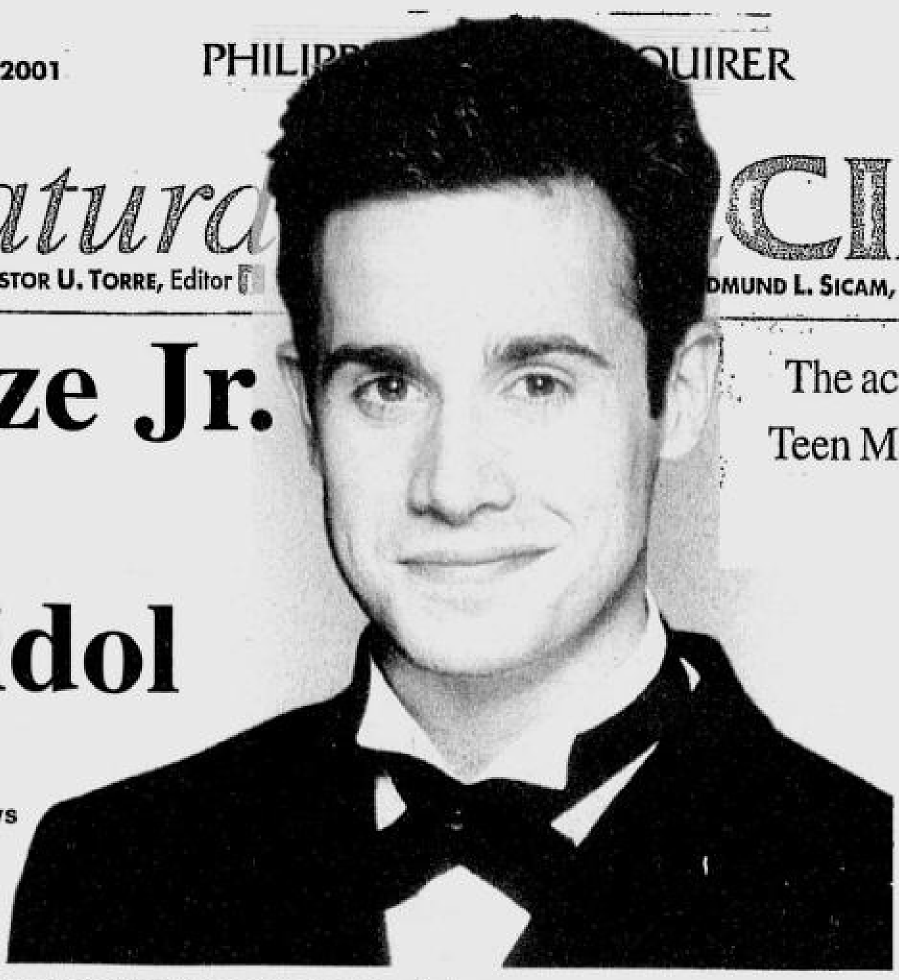
Freddie Prinze Jr. still enjoys being a teen idol



PRINZE. His budding maturity shows in his reading material.

The actor has collected multiple acting citations from Teen Magazine to Male Hottie of the Year honors at the 1999 Nickelodeon Teen Choice awards

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

LOS ANGELES—Freddie Prinze Jr. is in no hurry to outgrow the adulation of teen-age girls, even if he's in his mid-20s and getting ready for marriage.

Good things

"I enjoy knowing that this specific group supports me and believes in me and wants good things for me," the 25-year-old actor says. "Not everybody has that."

Although Prinze may not make Oscar-caliber pictures, he has collected multiple acting honors from Teen Magazine, not to mention Male Hottie of the Year honors at the 1999 Nickelodeon Teen Choice Awards.

He sometimes acts like he's the same age as his fans, orchestrating elaborate war games with sponge balls in his home and staging practical jokes on co-stars. (He once infuriated Julia Stiles by soaking her with a container of water strategically placed above her trailer door.)

But friends say there's a budding maturity to Prinze, which shows in his reading material.

He recently finished Henry Kissinger's sober tome "Does America Need a Foreign Policy?" but insists his favorite books are children's fantasies like J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series.

His breakthrough hit "She's All That," plus his follow-up romantic comedies "Down to You" and "Boys and Girls," forged a core following of young girls.

Older audience

When he tried to do something for an older audience, last February's "Head Over Heels," he found he couldn't shake them.

"'Head Over Heels' wasn't intended for teens at all," Prinze says. "It wasn't my fault that they went and showed up. That was my fan base! So they went to go see it and that's cool if they want to."

In his latest film, "Summer Catch," Prinze plays a poor, wannabe baseball player who falls for a local rich girl (Jessica Biel).

Since the movie is yet another youthful romantic comedy, Prinze says critics may slam it, but his young fans will love it.

And in his next movie, a live-action adaptation of "Scooby-Doo," the lanky heartthrob sends up his previous roles as swaggering, clean-cut young men. He plays golden-maned detective Fred Jones, who "is always taking the credit for all the crime-solving but never puts forward any effort."

While filming in Australia for six months, he dyed his dark hair blond every week, leaving his hair "like straw."

"It was dead, dead, dead."

So he shaved his head.

Now he's planning to let his dark locks grow back while taking some time off with fiancee Sarah Michelle Gellar, star of UPN's "Buffy the Vampire Slayer."

Catching-up period

"I was away from my family and friends so now is kind of like the catching-up period," Prinze says. "I just want to relax and kick back at home and cook dinner."

The couple met on the set of the 1997 teen slasher flick "I Know What You Did Last Summer" and became engaged in April. Gellar, 24, also co-stars as comely sleuth Daphne Blake in "Scooby-Doo."

Matthew Lillard, who has co-starred with Prinze in "She's All That" and "Wing Commander" as well as "Scooby-Doo" and "Summer Catch," says Prinze has clearly matured over the years—whether he wants to admit it or not.

"I think that Freddie certainly takes the job of acting and the business of it much more seriously," Lillard says.

Prinze has gotten to the point where he doesn't have to be identified as the offspring of a famous parent.

His father, comedian Freddie Prinze, was a standup comic who had a successful run in the sitcom "Chico and the Man" and committed suicide in 1977. The younger Prinze was only 10 months old when his father died and said being raised in New Mexico by his mother helped him grow up away from the shadow of that tragedy.

AP

PRINZE shaved his head while shooting "Scooby-Doo" in Australia.

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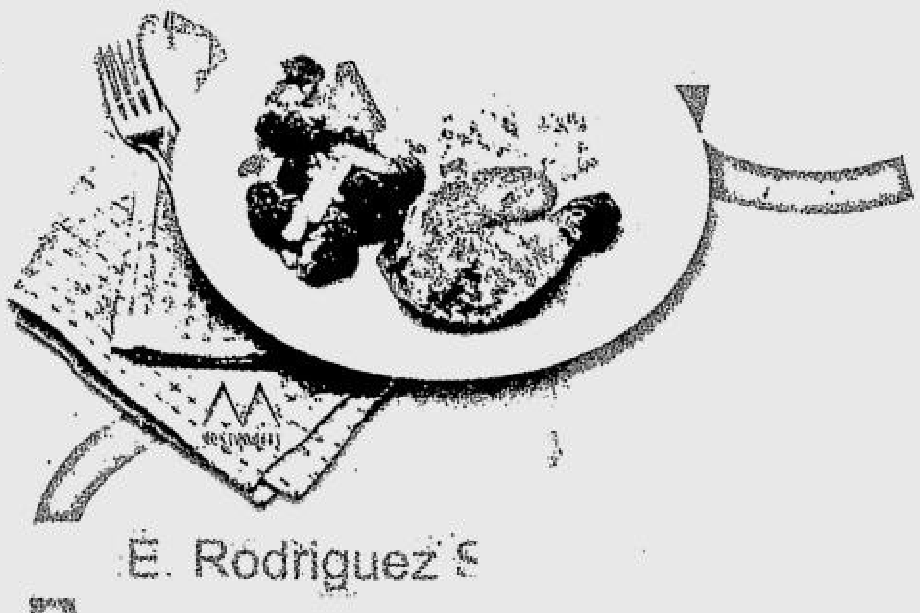

Everyday, it seems kids grow smarter. Being in the center of the city lets you be home in time and be active parts of their lives. That's why Montgomery Place has fast become the first choice among families. Not only can parents get home to their kids in time for dinner, it's also close to a great selection of private schools and universities. This townhouse neighborhood built and managed by the experts at Ayala Land, Inc., promises to be quiet and safe, and yet very accessible, even by public transport.
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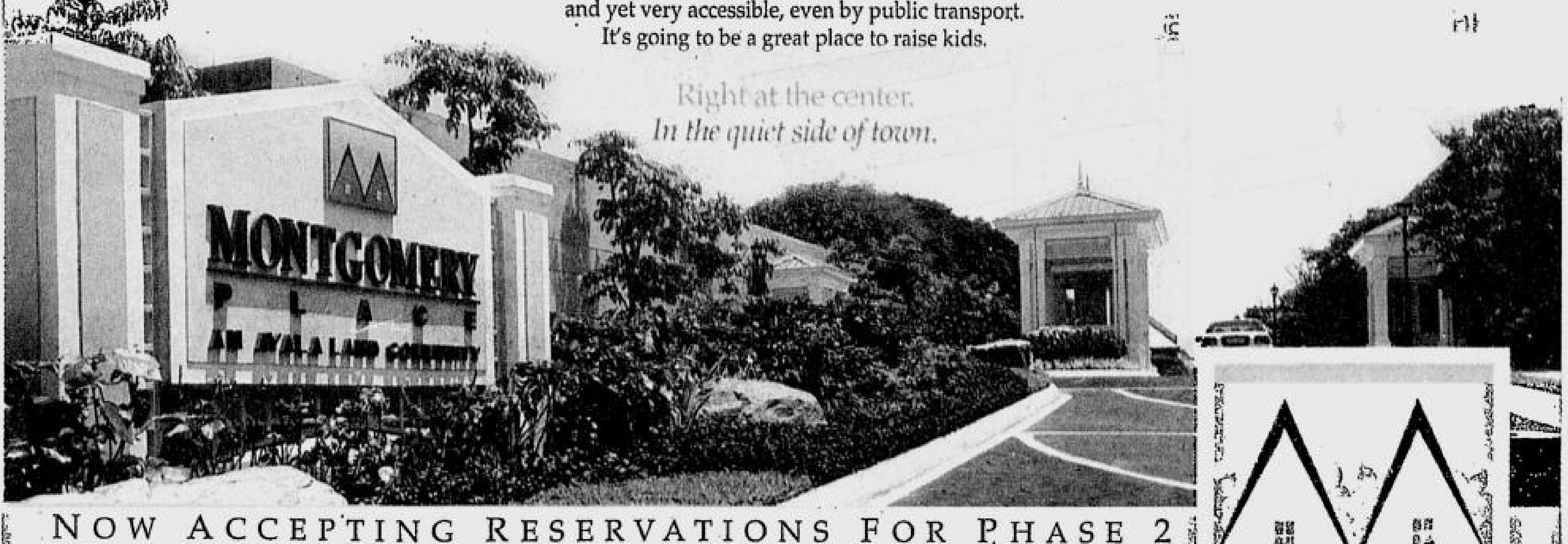

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First 'Harry Potter' film looks like a big winner

By Nestor U. Torre

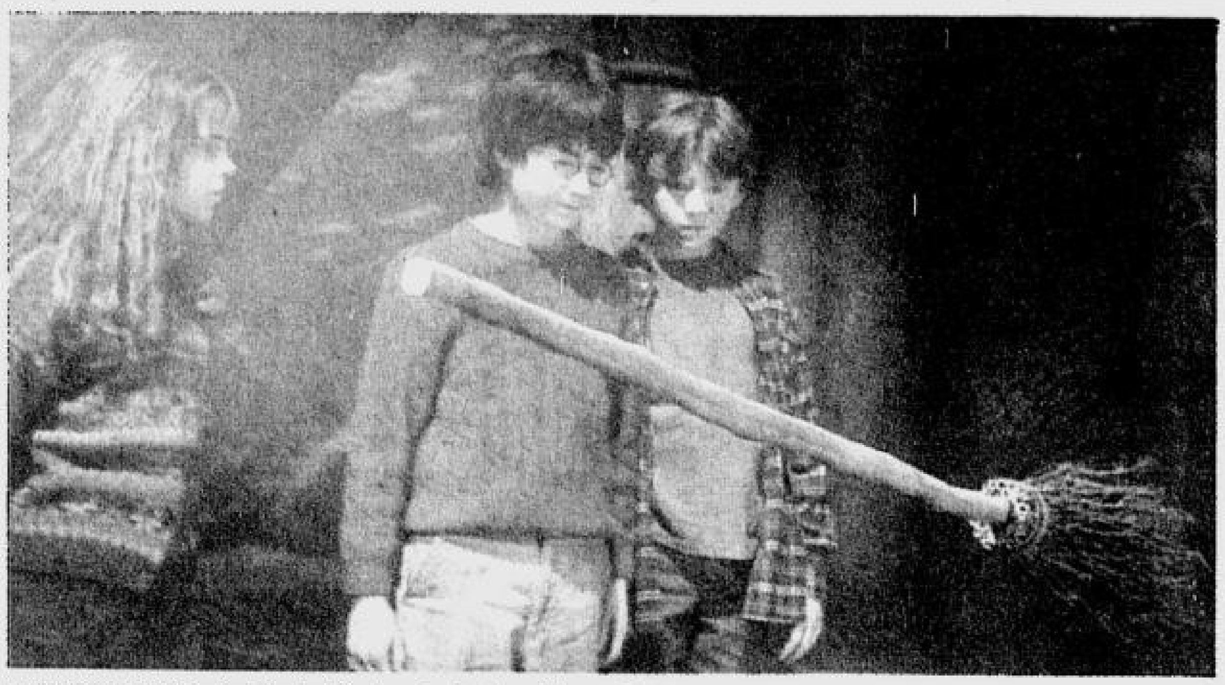
HOW can you tell if a new film is going to be a hit? One pretty reliable indication is film buffs' advance excitement over a project. If viewers can't wait for a movie to finally be finished and screened, it's a good bet that its box office take will shoot through the roof.

Yardstick

By that yardstick, it looks like "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" is going to end up as one of the biggest hits of the year, if not *the* biggest.

Based on the first of K. Rowling's hugely popular novels, the film took a long time being written and shot, adding to Harry Potter fans' delicious impatience.

The project was so special that a number of "A"—level directors made a strong bid to meg it—among them, Steven Spielberg, Jonathan Demme and Terry Gilliam. Eventually, Spielberg had to drop out to shoot "A.I.—Artificial Intelligence," and when the dust had settled, Chris Columbus was in the director's chair.



NEWCOMER Daniel Radcliffe (center) plays Harry Potter.

Anticipation

Fans' sense of anticipation got even keener when they learned that Warner Bros. had decided to go for broke and spend $150 million on the special effects-laden production!

That meant that the studio smelled a big winner in its prized project.

To make real money from a movie with a budget that big, its producers must expect it to earn at least P300 million—which would make it one of the most commercially successful movies ever filmed.

Now, producers have been known to grossly overestimate a special project's potential box-office grosses, so the Harry Potter movie *could* end up as a major embarrassment.

However, after the huge debacles that were "Heaven's Gate," and "Waterworld," Hollywood has generally become more hard-nosed and less speculative in the way it sizes up a film's chances at the tills.

Solid proof

So, it's likely that the people behind the first Harry Potter film have some solid proof of the movie's potential to earn mega-millions once it opens this November.

Another indication of this is the fact that, not only was "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" budgeted at a very pricey P150 million, but it is only the first of at least *four* Harry Potter movies that are now on the drawing boards.

Indeed, some of the first film's lead players have already signed up for three sequels. If that isn't sublime and absolute self-assurance on Warner Bros.'s part, I don't know what is.

Starting point

What makes the emerging Harry Potter movie franchise such a hot, bankable property? The books' popularity is only the starting point. The film version of the first book promises to be an exceptionally exciting visual treat, with one magical feat quickly followed by another.

Then there's the plot's affecting premise: Harry is an orphan who lives, unloved, in his aunt and uncle's house—until he discovers that he has inherited a special and truly magical gift from his deceased parents—A male Cinedrella!

This gift of exceptional wizardry arouses the ire of some dark forces, specially after young Harry has honed his ability at a school for wizardry and witchcraft.

The fact that Harry is still a child makes his special gift even more awesome—and enables young viewers to empathize with him and his exploits.

Substantial themes

But even adults are expected to relate to the film, since its production approach is subtle instead of childish, and the movie's story tackles some substantial themes, despite the movie's otherwise fantasticating bent.

The Harry Potter film is expected to make a big star out of its heretofore unknown lead, Daniel Radcliffe, who clinched the role over thousands of other auditionees.

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" opens in the States on Nov. 12, and could play here as a Christmas presentation. It's expected to be a major hit not just in the US but also all over the world.

Its showing is such an anticipated event that even the release of its trailer some weeks ago was greeted with great excitement. With such fever-pitch advance enthusiasm going for it, how can the first Harry Potter movie lose?

'Hits' . . . (From page C6)

grateful Heart") and lyrics meant he thought it could amplify themes in the show.

Chianese's CD was in the works long before that episode, and the timing of the release with the season finale was just "a lucky break," he says.

Veteran producer

Chianese (pronounced Key-a-NAY-see) worked on the CD with Dub Cornett, a veteran producer who's worked with Lucinda Williams, Steve Earle and Townes Van Zandt. It features traditional Italian songs ("State Vicino A Me"), folk standards (Kris Kristofferson's "For the Good Times") and three songs written by Chianese.

One of them, "Typical New Yorker," he wrote in 1974 when he was feeling depressed about his career.

"I was going through a painful period as an actor and it just came to me one day while I was baby-sitting my youngest child," he recalls. "It was a rough time back then. It was after the 'Godfather' movie. I was back in New York, broke and still out of work."

He had played Johnny Ola in "The Godfather, Part II." (Remember? He was Hyman Roth's "Sicilian messenger boy"—the guy Fredo says he's been talking to, causing Michael to realize Fredo was betraying the family.) But the role didn't turn out to be a breakthrough. He'd have to wait another quarter-century for that.

"Typical New Yorker" sounds upbeat. "I guess I was trying to pick up my own spirits," Chianese says now. But despite the honky-tonk arrangement, he feels the lyrics have a sad tinge ("I've been hugged, I've been bugged, I've been towed, I've been tugged—like a raft upon the sea").

Audition

Chianese grew up in the Bronx and graduated from that borough's elite High School of Science. He initially followed his father and grandfather into stone masonry and bricklaying. But one day in 1952, after seeing a newspaper ad for an audition, he got off the bus in Manhattan en route to a construction job in New Jersey and snagged his first show business job, singing in "HMS Pinafore."

Over the years, he's acted on Broadway, off-Broadway, television ("Ryan's Hope," "Law & Order" and HBO's "Gotti") and films ("Dog Day Afternoon," "All the President's Men" and "Fort Apache, The Bronx").

But dating back to when he heard his Italian immigrant grandfather belt out Neapolitan songs, Chianese always had a passion for music.

In the early and mid-'60s, after he earned a theater degree at age 30 from Brooklyn College, he got a gig as emcee at Gerde's Folk City in Greenwich Village. Dylan had already stopped playing there, but Chianese did meet such performers as Arlo Guthrie, Jose Feliciano, David Bromberg, Janis Ian and Emmylou Harris. *AP*

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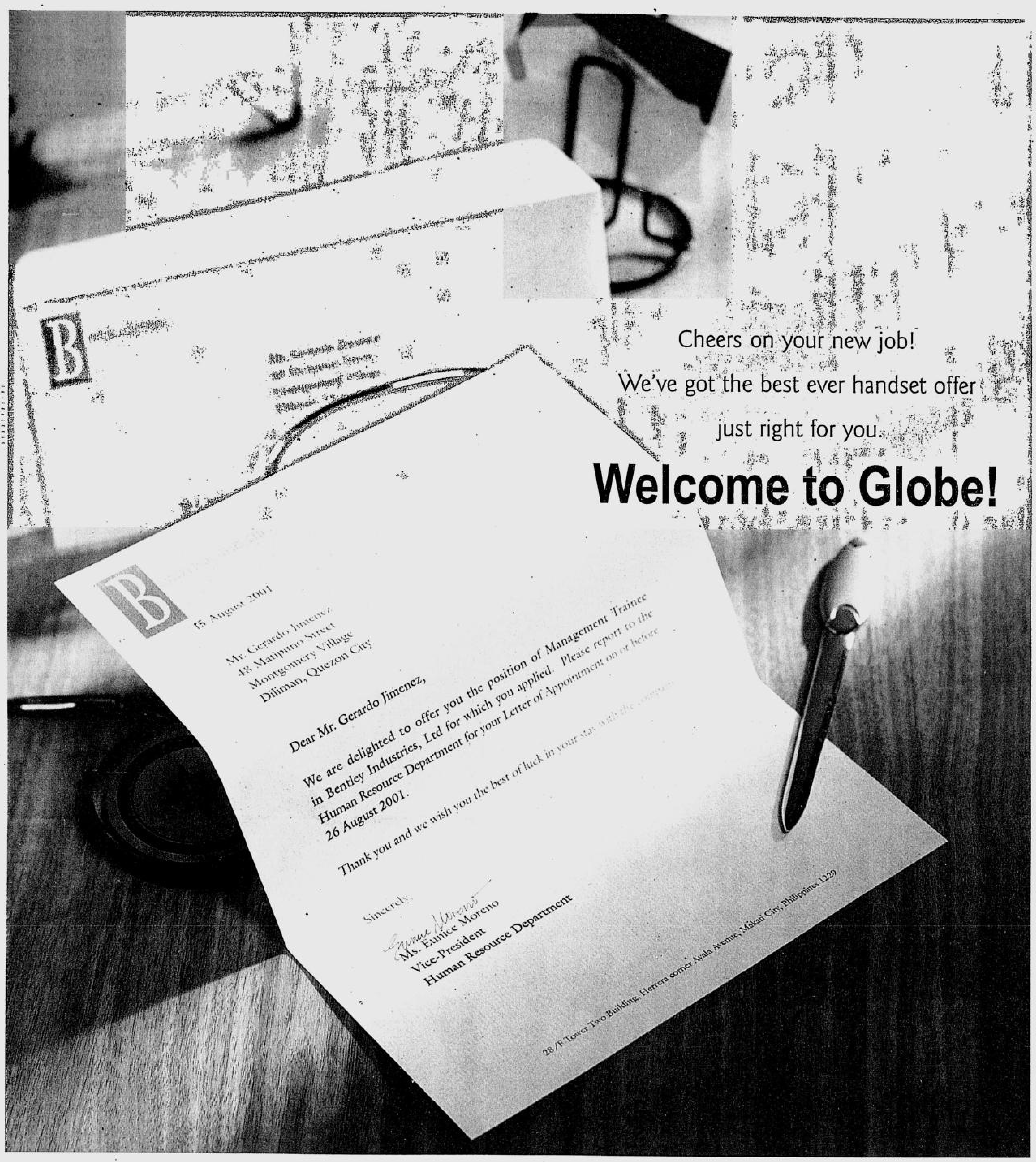

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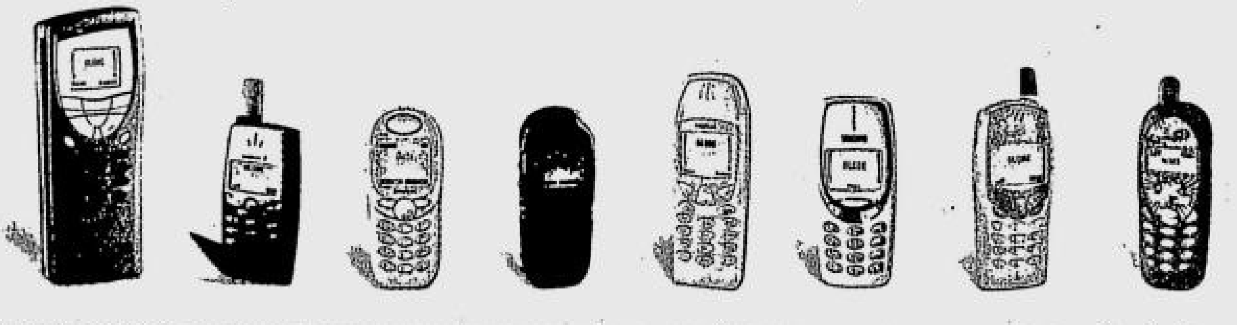

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YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM SEPT 1 – SEPT 7

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E!31
[illegible]	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Auto Focus	6:00 Vampires 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's Best 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 To Be Announced 7:00 Invisible Man 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class	6:00 Viva Premiere Night 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 10:00 Fist of Fury	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! Special 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
[illegible]	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanalaym 8:30 Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Sunday's Big Showdown 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Business & Leisure	6:00 Sinbad the Sailor 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eezy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Biloy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 Little Night of Music	6:00 Shadow Raiders 6:30 Crash Zone 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 It's A Miracle 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	5:00 PBA Game1 7:30 PBA GAme 2 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva Music Channel 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Bette 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Special 9:00 E! Special 10:00 Celebrity Home 11:00 The Best of 60 Minutes
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Who's your favorite TV-film comedienne?

By Noelani Torre

IT USED to be that comedy was restricted to male performers. (You've never heard of a female court jester, have you?) However, women have long since disregarded these (literally) man-made barriers and proceeded make people laugh—hysterically! In the end, it's all a matter of talent – and comediennes have that, in heaps!

Profitable

Eliciting laughter has proven to be a very profitable business lately, what with all the depressing realities we've all been facing. So, our modern-day court jesters and jesterettes are doing their best to relieve the collective gloom. And we seem to be seeing a lot of the distaff jokesmiths nowadays.

We asked the ultimate judges, the viewers, which TV-film comedienne they liked the most, Here are their choices:

"**Maricel Soriano.** I really can't forget her antics and get-ups during the '80s, like her `Inday sa Balitaw' flick. Also, those movies of hers where she has freckles all over the place, pigtails, large square-framed glasses, and an evil twin sister!

"As a kid, I was highly amused by her portrayals and that particular image is ingrained in my memory. She doesn't do that anymore but whenever I watch her, that picture sort of gets superimposed over everything, and I just laugh to bits." — ***Dodong John Diaz, Misamis Oriental***

"*Sino pa, e di si* **Ai-ai de las Alas**! *Mukha pa lang, nakakatawa na. Kapag nakikita ko siya, di ko na napipigilan ang tawa ko. Gusto ko na kaya niyang pagtawanan ang sarili niya pero hindi nagiging* pathetic *ang dating. Tanggap niya yung realidad na gano'n na talaga ang itsura niya at pinagkikitaan pa niya iyon!*

"*Hanga ako sa mga taong ganyan. Ginawa niyang* gift *yung sa tingin ng ibang tao'y kakulangan. Pero ang importante, nakakapagpatawa siya, di ba?*" — ***Paulino de la Cruz, Parañaque, MM***

Terrific

"**Tessie Tomas.** She's terrific in `Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata.' Actually, she's one of the main reasons why I watch that show. It's not just slapstick, you know?

She acts naturally and she can make you laugh even when she's just putting on a straight face. She isn't a contortionist – she doesn't have to do silly dances or make silly faces in order to be funny. She has real talent for comedy which is why she's lasted so long.

" Barbara Tengko's character is hilarious but realistic, too,and Tessie does very good impersonations. I like the fact that nothing looks forced in her acting and her delivery. It's like she's just naturally funny." — ***Mae Gonzalo, Pangasinan***

Natural

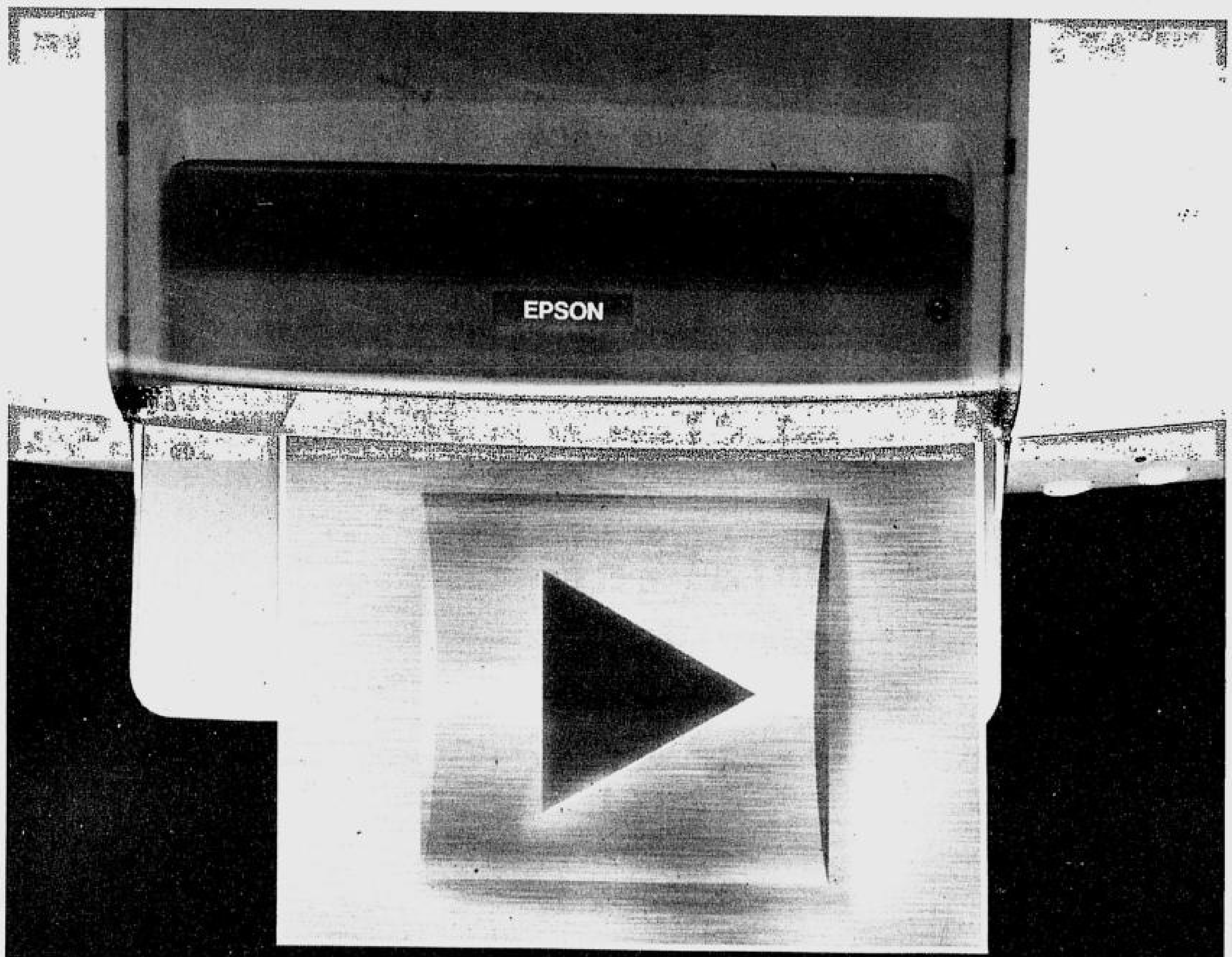
"**Mitch Valdes.** She's versatile – she doesn't just stick to gags and jokes. Her style is neither exaggerated nor trying-hard. She's a natural!

"And she has good timing – she knows when to slow down or speed up and when to deliver a punchline, so it really hits you where it tickles the most.

"She also seems like a warm-hearted person and she doesn't treat her job as just work. She looks like she's having fun being funny. When you watch her you think, this is a person who has brains, but she's not intimidating. I wish I could see one of her live shows, she doesn't get much television exposure." — ***Penny San Miguel, Morong, Rizal***

"**Rufa Mae Quinto.** Intrinsic *na sa kanya ang maging nakakatawa.* She doesn't have to act at being funny, she's inherently funny, she was *born* funny! She's sexy but

WHO'S / P. C6



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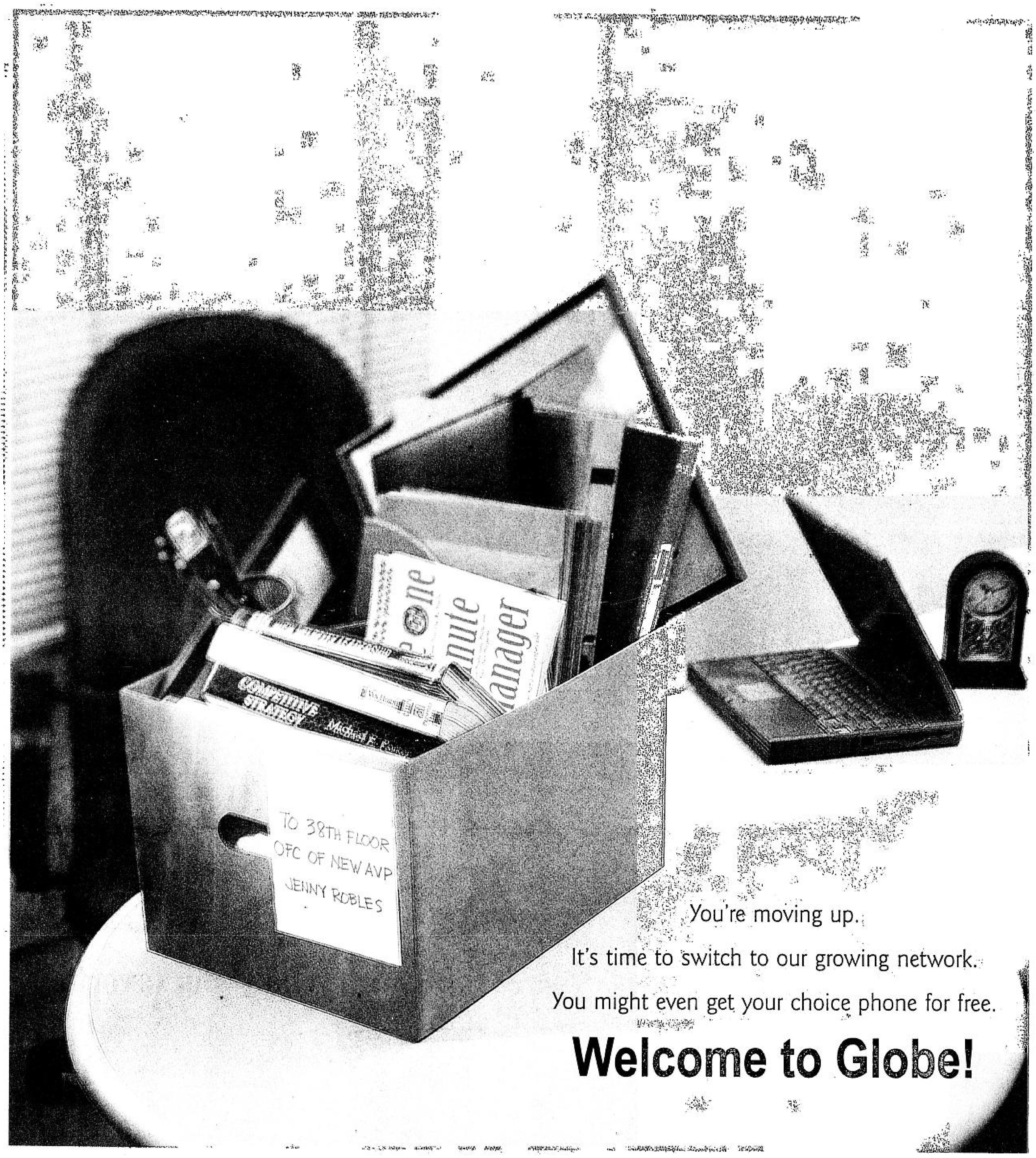
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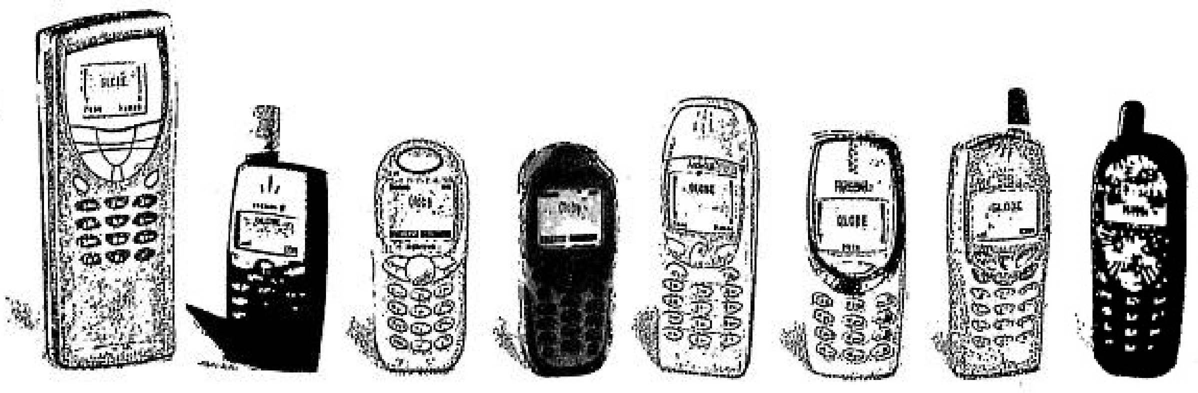

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Focus on the members of the 'Alas Singko Y Medya' team

By Remy M. Umerez

MEET the hosts: From left, seated, Sison and Mercado; Standing, Yan, Cosim, producer Panganiban, Guanio, Ilagan.

A mini-newscast within the three-hour show now offers a comprehensive look at the news developments of the day

MORNING television viewing saw a big change when "Alas Singko Y Medya" reformatted in 1997. A public service type of TV was introduced. Traffic reports, weather forecasts as well as early morning news catered to the rush of the morning people.

New segments

A new set of hosts dominated the show and new segments were introduced to serve the changing needs of the viewers.

A mini-newscast ("Alas Singko Y Medya Patrol") within the three-hour show now offers a comprehensive look at the new developments of the day. Segments helpful to mothers and students are placed in strategic spots of the show.

Morning is the most important part of the day, the time that public service and information are most needed before one begins the day. "Alas Singko Y Medya" is more than willing to be of service to their millions of viewers.

Original hosts Mon Ilagan and Cheryl Cosim were retained because of their developed expertise in their respective fields.

Mon was first introduced as the traffic czar, the chore now being done by Aida Gonzales. He is currently the Senate reporter of ABS-CBN News and covered the impeachment trial of the President Joseph Estrada.

Hard work

Mon believes in hard work, patience and perseverance. Also in the broadcast principle that you're only as good as your last report.

Cheri Mercado used to anchor the late-night telecast "The Global News." A mass communication graduate from Assumption College, she is also a regular reporter for ABS-CBN News.

Cheryl Cosim brightens up the day with the weather forecast. She has proven her reliability as a member of the "ASYM" family by filling in for anyone who's absent. She treats "Alas Singko Y Medya" not just a job but also as her second home.

Connie Sison loves kids so much, which made her take up BS Psychology at Miriam College. Her goal is to put up her own-pre-school, but that has to wait. In 1997, she found herself applying as a field reporter at Studio 23. She got the job and fell in love with it. A year later, she was taken in by the "TV Patrol" group.

Solid background

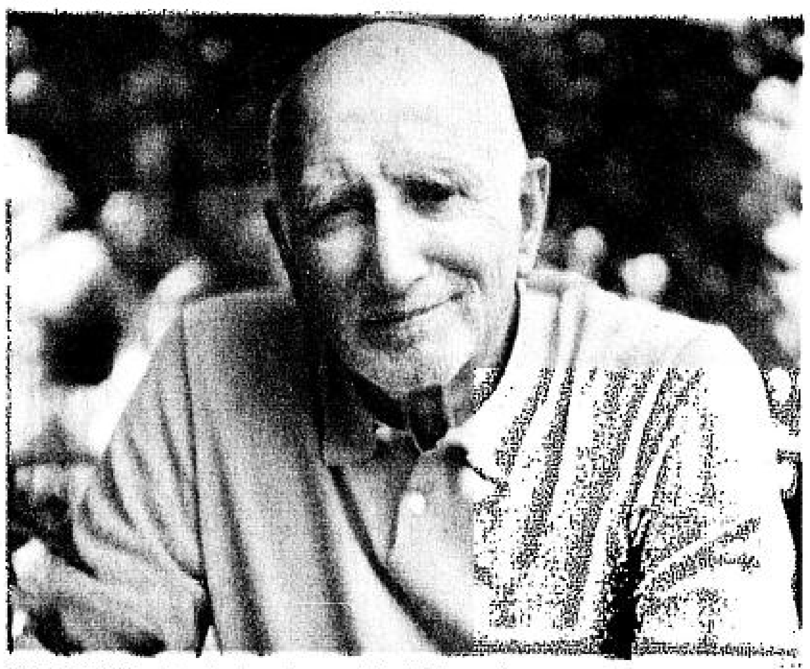
Pia Guanio used to report live traffic updates from a helicopter over FM radio. She has a solid news and current affairs background after working for four years on "The Inside Story." Aside from "Alas Singko Y Medya," she hosts "Review Night" together with Ryan Agoncillo over Skycable's Channel 22, Cinema One.

Bobby Yan started his TV career as a sportscaster. The elder brother of heartthrob Rico Yan, he delights viewers with his cute antics.

One feedback they got was that there were too many hosts on the show, and they sometimes talked at the same time. Producer Ira Panganiban solved the problem by giving each host his respective portion. He is also proud of the fact that the six hosts are all broadcast people who treat their jobs as professionals should.

'Hits' by a Soprano—Uncle Junior sings

By Douglas J. Rowe



CHIANESE. Music has been his lifelong love.

NEW YORK—Dominic Chianese, who plays Uncle Junior on "The Sopranos," wants you to know that really was him singing at the end of this season's finale.

Now he's come out with a CD titled "Hits."

First role

Before anyone thinks he should check into the Witless Protection Program, consider this: Music has been his lifelong love, his first role a half-century ago was in a Gilbert and Sullivan musical, he served as master of ceremonies at a folk club in the '60s and taught himself the guitar—and he has a decent voice.

Of course, he concedes, none of that would matter if the HBO series weren't such a smash. Debuting as a recording artist at age 70 is one of the spoils of success.

"I'm so happy that he gave me that song to sing, because it's going to help my singing career," Chianese says, referring to "Sopranos" creator David Chase.

Chase had heard Chianese sing the Italian song at a party at actress Lorraine Bracco's home, and when he found out what the title ("Un-

'HITS'/ P. C2

Who's your . . .

(From page C4)

TOMAS. Naturally funny.

she's not like all the other sexy stars. She flaunts her body in another way, she uses it for her comedy routines. Hit *na* hit *yung* 'Booba.' *Iba kasi talaga yung kombinasyon ng katawan niya at ng pagpapatawa niya.*

"Sometimes she exaggerates her acting but I think she's learning to restrain herself. I was able to watch 'Radyo' and I thought she gave a good performance there – light and a bit zany – which was morbidly funny, considering that people were getting chopped up left and right."

— Mike Acevedo, Diliman, Q.C.

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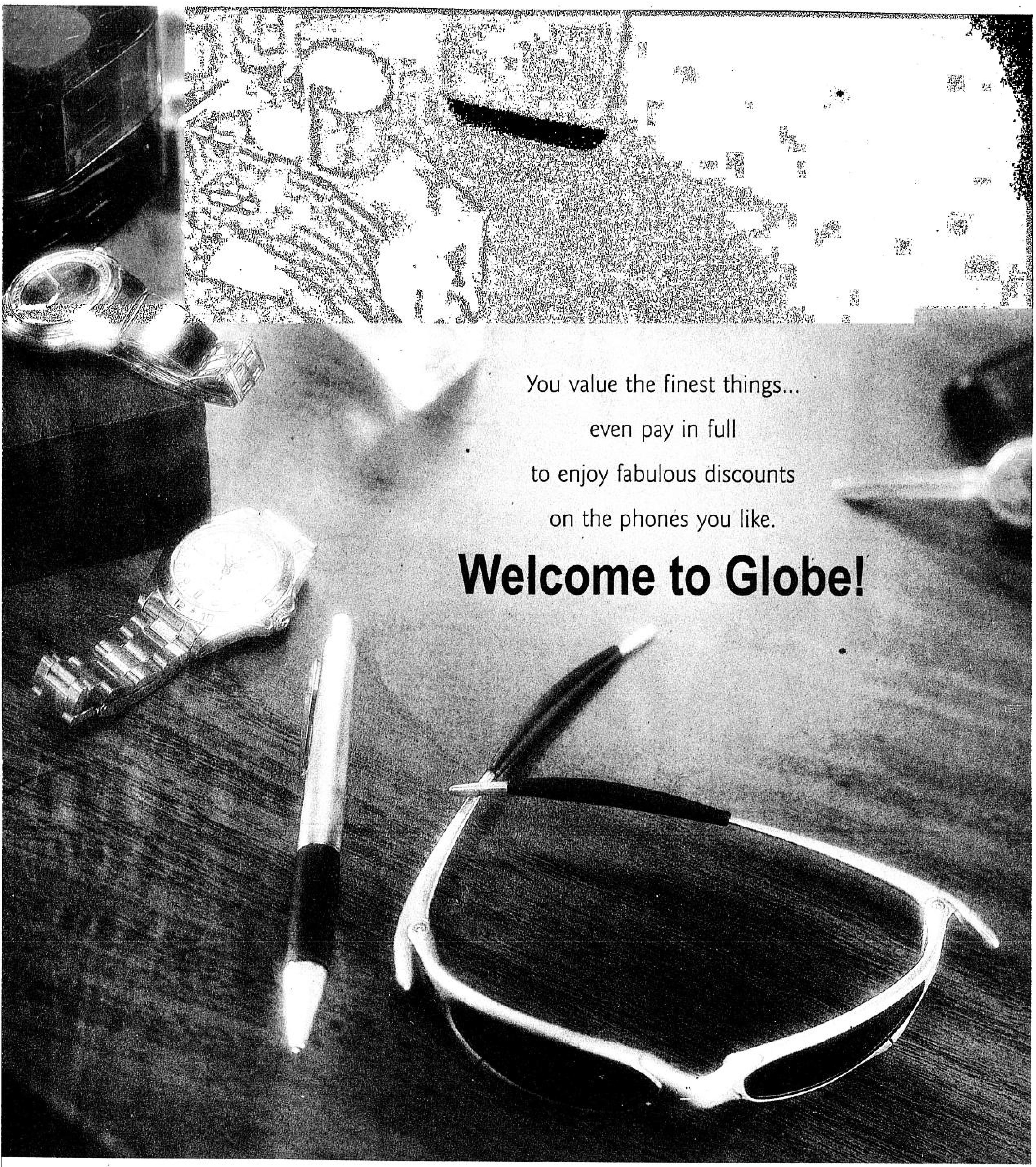

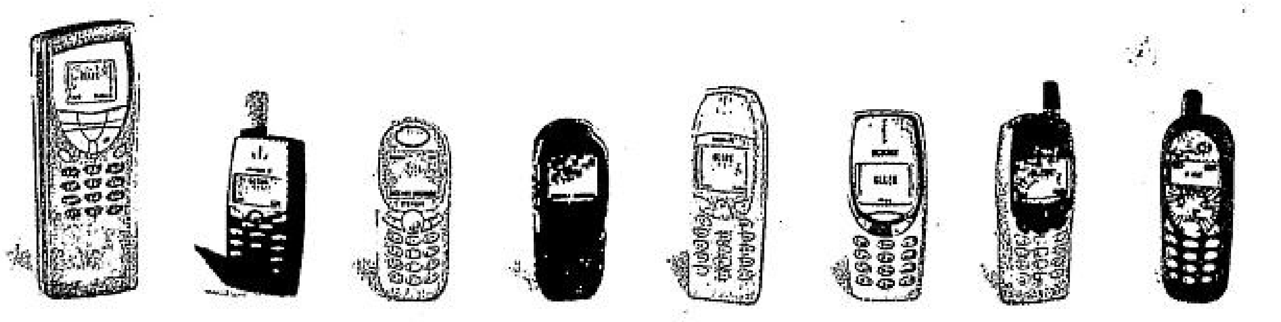

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Business ₱1,331 x 12mos = ₱15,972	34,500	11,500	9,500	9,500	8,000	4,500	1,600	FREE
Executive ₱1,997 x 12mos = ₱23,964	32,000	9,000	7,000	7,000	5,500	2,000	FREE	FREE
CEO ₱2,662 x 12mos = ₱31,944	29,500	6,500	4,500	4,500	3,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
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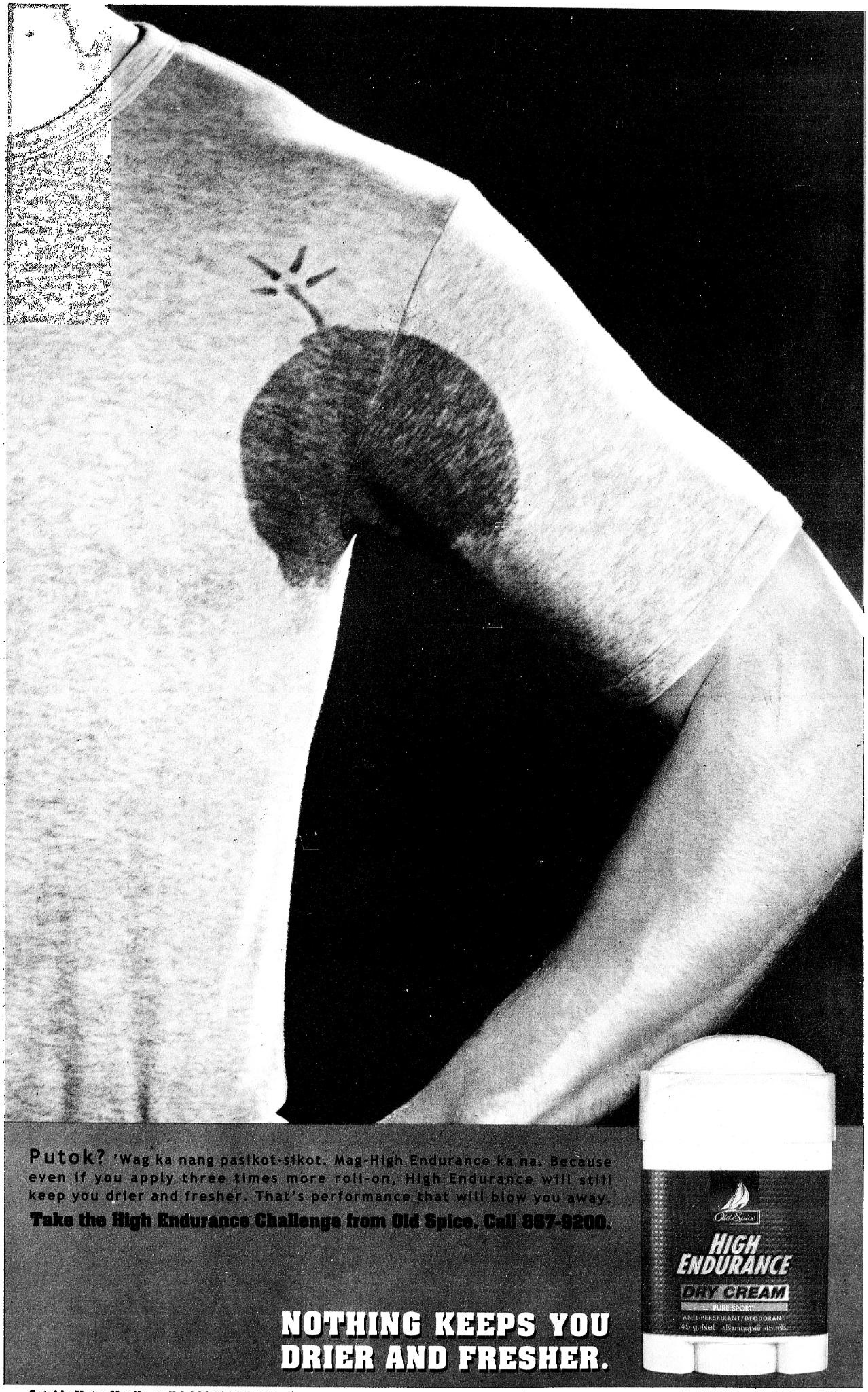
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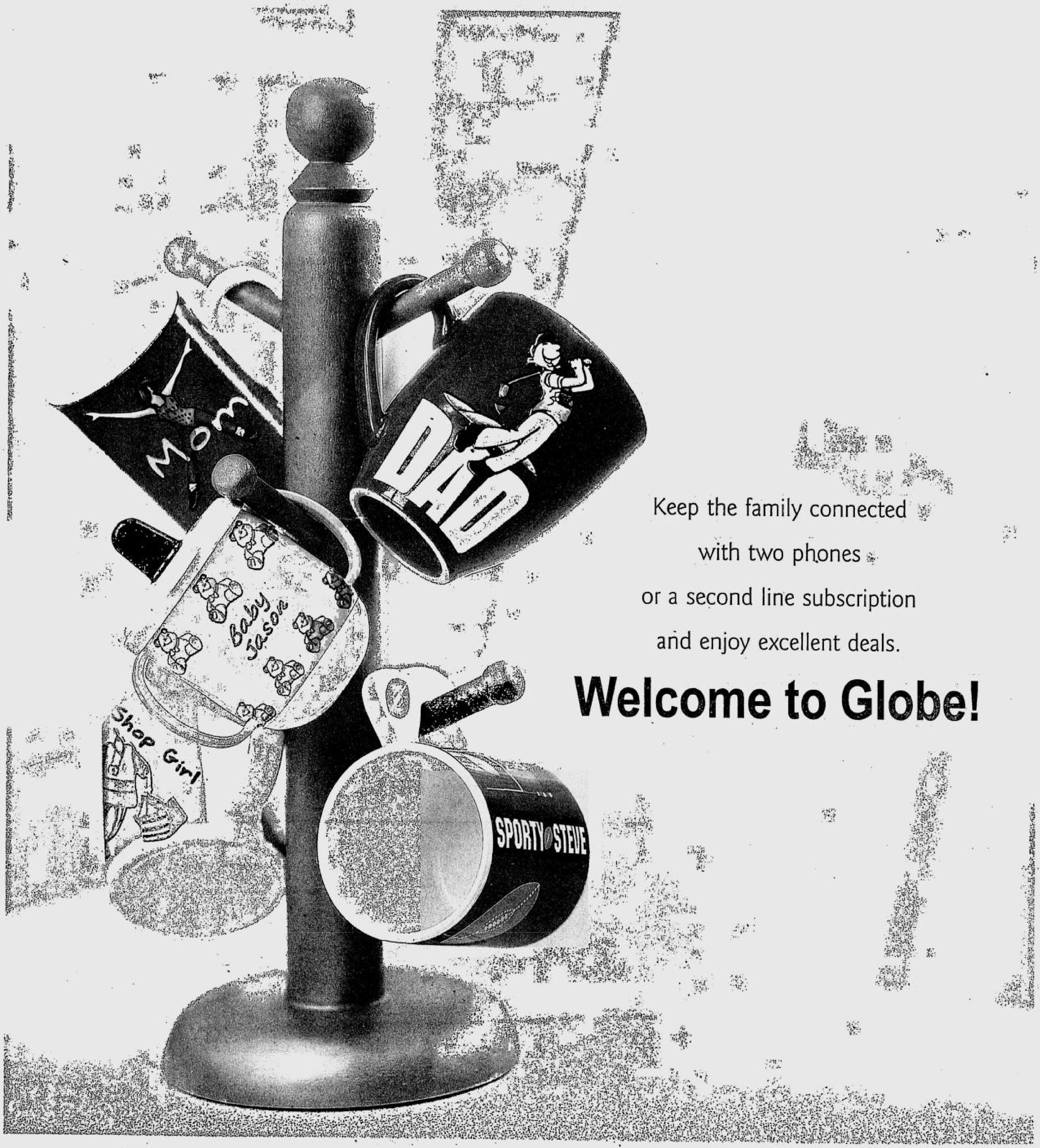

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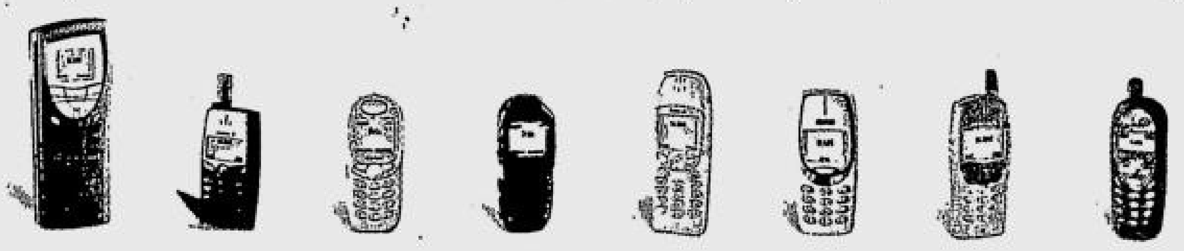

Handsets	Nokia 9210	Ericsson T39	Siemens S45	Siemens ME45	Nokia 6210	Nokia 3330	Ericsson A3618*	Siemens A40
Regular Line 1 Personal ₱799	38,000	15,000	13,000	13,000	11,500	8,000	5,100	3,500
Business ₱1,331	37,000	14,000	12,000	12,000	10,500	7,000	4,100	2,500
Executive ₱1,997	36,000	13,000	11,000	11,000	9,500	6,000	3,100	1,500
CEO ₱2,662	35,000	12,000	10,000	10,000	8,500	5,000	2,100	500
Regular Line 1 Personal ₱799	37,000	14,000	12,000	12,000	10,500	7,000	4,100	2,500
Business ₱1,331	34,500	11,500	9,500	9,500	8,000	4,500	1,600	FREE
Executive ₱1,997	32,000	9,000	7,000	7,000	5,500	2,000	FREE	FREE
CEO ₱2,662	29,500	6,500	4,500	4,500	3,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Prepaid Line 2 Cost of Prepaid Phone Kit if 1st line is **Personal**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9,290	6,190	4,590
Cost of Prepaid Phone Kit if 1st line is **Business**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8,990	5,890	4,290
Cost of Prepaid Phone Kit if 1st line is **Executive**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8,640	5,540	3,940
Cost of Prepaid Phone Kit if 1st line is **CEO**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8,190	5,090	3,490
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The heat is on 'Corelli,' 'Outlaws,' 'Rat Race'

By Bob Tourtellotte

LOS ANGELES—When the sun is scorching as it has been this summer, people escape to cool, darkened movie theaters, but even the cinema gets steamy on Friday when Penelope Cruz and Nicolas Cage heat things up in "Captain Corelli's Mandolin."

Young heartthrobs

The World War II romance is joined by a less-serious look at lovin' in the Wild West tale, "American Outlaws," starring young heartthrobs Colin Farrell and Ali Larter, and the decidedly unromantic comedy "Rat Race."

"Corelli," however, has been generating the most heat around Hollywood this week as Spanish beauty Cruz and newfound honey Tom Cruise have appeared all over television shows and been photographed for numerous magazines and newspapers.

The two were together for Monday's premiere of "Corelli" in Beverly Hills, overshadowing Cage and his date, Lisa Marie Presley. And that's no easy pair to nudge from the spotlight.

Onscreen, Cruz and Cage share an equal amount of camera time in "Corelli," which is based on a popular 1994 novel of the same name by Louis de Bernieres.

Uneasy relationship

John Madden ("Shakespeare In Love") directed and said he was intrigued not only by the love story, but also by "the uneasy relationship between Italians and Germans—by no means natural allies—and the paradox of the Italians and Greeks finding that underneath the hostility, they are the same."

The R-rated film is set in 1941 in a small Greek village that has been occupied by Hitler-backed Italian troops, one of whom is Captain Corelli, played by Cage. Corelli leads an artillery unit, but the men under his command make better singers—a knowledge of opera is required in Corelli's company—than fighters.

Cruz plays Pelagia, the beautiful daughter of the village doctor, who aspires to be a doctor herself. Before the war, the young Pelagia becomes engaged to a local boy, but when the war begins he goes off to fight the German and Italian occupiers.

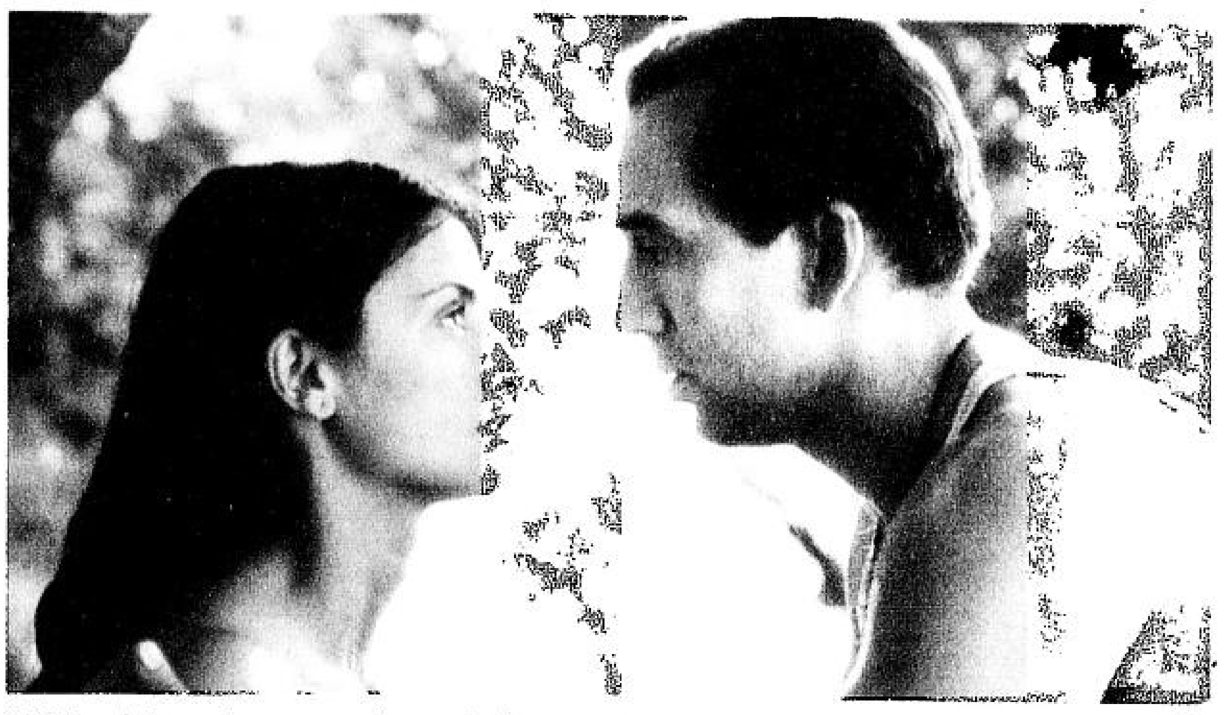
As time passes, Corelli woos Pelagia with charm, chivalry, and some sweet mandolin playing. Pelagia slowly falls for the noble Italian, but is torn between her new love and loyalty to her fiancee, her village and, in a way, her country.

After Italian leader Mussolini surrenders to western allied troops, Correlli must decide whether to surrender his guns to the Nazis or turn and fight them with the Greek resistance.

While the love story is front and center, "Corelli" really highlights how much more alike people are, than different, which is especially poignant given the backdrop of World War II. And a hint at the end: it's different than the book.

License

Of course, Hollywood has always felt it had a certain license to change a novel's ending or historical facts in order to tell a whopping good movie story. Remember "Pearl Harbor"?



CRUZ and Cage share an equal amount of camera time in "Corelli."

"American Outlaws" does the same thing with infamous outlaw Jesse James and the James-Younger Gang of bank robbers that terrorized the American West just after the Civil War.

Fortunately for the filmmakers, they are quick to admit their story has very little to do with history. (Of course, the "Pearl Harbor" guys did, too, but nobody seemed to listen.)

"('American Outlaws') is loosely based on the story of a real person," said producer James Robinson. "The James Gang is kind of like a rock-and-roll band out on the road."

Incidentally, The James Gang is the name of a 1960s and '70s rock band that featured guitarist Joe Walsh.

History aside, the PG-13 movie stars Colin Farrell ("Tigerland") as the fearless outlaw who's fast with his gun, and Scott Caan ("Varsity Blues") as his cousin, Cole Younger.

The two return to their hometown in Missouri after the Civil War to settle down and farm the land. But when a railroad tycoon attempts to strong arm them into selling their fields for less than they're worth, the two gang up to steal railroad money and give it back to churches and poor folk.

Love story

In that way, Hollywood's James-Younger "outlaws" are more like Robin Hood and his Merry Men than thieves and killers. Put the Robin Hood theme together with a love story between James and hometown sweetie Zee Mimms (Larter), and "American Outlaws" is simply a light story about sharp shootin' and gal courtin'.

Here's another bit of history for movie fans old enough to remember 1963's popular comedy "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World." They can go see it again in "Rat Race." In "Mad World" a group of tourists rival each other in a "mad" dash across California to find a robbers' buried loot.

GOLDBERG. Stars in "Rat Race."

"Rat Race," rated PG-13, stars Whoopi Goldberg, Jon Lovitz, Cuba Gooding Jr., Rowan Atkinson, John Cleese and Seth Green, among others, in a dash from Las Vegas to New Mexico to find a duffel bag containing $2 million. Back in Vegas, a group of gamblers bets on who will be the first to reach the cash.

There is nothing really new in "Rat Race." Of course, the same can be said about "Corelli" and "Outlaws," except for the romantic heat they're packin'. And during the summer, heat is not really new: ask the folks in air-conditioned theaters.

Reuters

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3. Upon purchase, bring your Colgate toothbrush to the promo girl at the engraving booth.
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5. Employees of Colgate-Palmolive Philippines and its promotional agencies including their relatives up to second degree of affinity or consanguinity, are disqualified to join this promotion.
6. Promo period is from August 16 to October 10, 2001.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1261, Series of 2001

Shannyn Sossamon makes major film debut in 'A Knight's Tale'

ONE of the loveliest faces to grace the silver screen in a long time, new discovery Shannyn Sossamon makes her major motion picture debut in Columbia Pictures' rock-and-roll-infused action-adventure "A Knight's Tale."

She plays the stunningly beautiful Jocelyn, a noblewoman for whom the brave knights of Europe do earnest battle.

For a poor man's son like William (Heath Ledger), she is as impossibly unattainable as a place at the prestigious jousting tournament.

Casting director

In October of 1999, the 20-year-old Shannyn Sossamon was with a friend who was d.j.-ing at Gwyneth and Jake Paltrow's joint birthday party when Hollywood casting director Francine Maisler took note of her.

Maisler recalls, "Shannyn had such an arresting beauty that you simply couldn't take your eyes off her. I've never had such a strong reaction to anything. I could tell that she was completely oblivious to her incredible looks. I wanted to talk to her, but I'm hesitant to approach strangers. I have too much respect for the acting craft to think that just any attractive person can do it. Also, you don't want to get people's hopes up."

Maisler went through proper channels and a few days later conversed with the beautiful, dark-eyed, part-time disc jockey. She learned that Shannyn was born in Hawaii, raised in Reno, Nevada, and moved to Los Angeles to study dance, her lifetime passion.

TV commercials

She was encouraged to discover that the young woman had some experience before the cameras, having appeared in several TV commercials.

Shortly thereafter, when Maisler became involved in "A Knight's Tale," she immediately envisioned Shannyn Sossamon as a leading lady opposite hot new star Heath Ledger. The Hollywood unknown met and read for the casting director, who was immediately impressed.

"A Knight's Tale" writer-director Brian Helgeland agreed that Shannyn was perfect for the part of the noble Jocelyn. Producer Todd Black describes Columbia Pictures' decision to cast Sossamon as, "a very brave thing to do, going with a complete unknown for a big-budget studio film. Everyone has been knocked out by her look and her ability."

On April 17, 2000, the entertainment trade paper Variety announced, "In a development that's as close as it gets to Lana Turner's discovery at a drugstore counter, Shannyn Sossamon has beaten out a slew of young stars to land the female lead role alongside Heath Ledger in the Brian Helgeland-directed medieval Columbia film "A Knight's Tale." The casting is astounding, given that it's the first time Sossamon has acted."

SOSSAMON (left) beat a slew of young stars to land the female lead opposite Heath Ledger.

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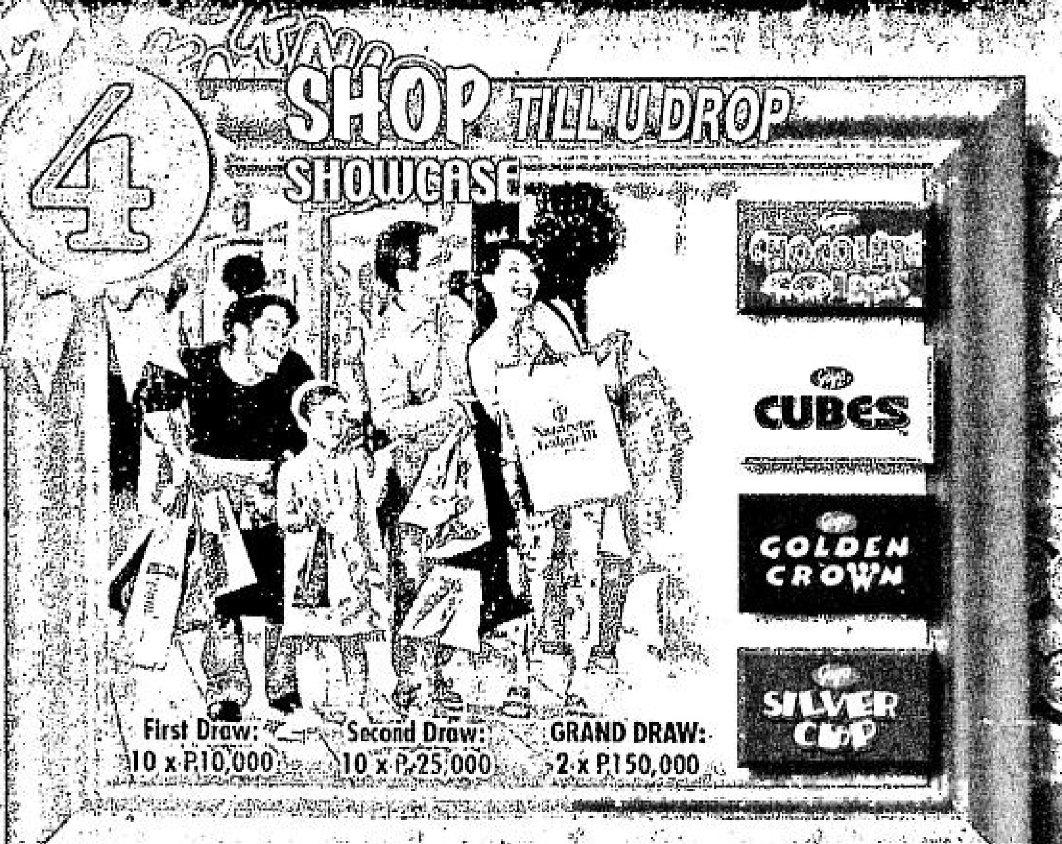
Kiddie Fun Bar

First Draw:	Second Draw:	GRAND DRAW:
10 Injusa Electronic Cars	6 Sony Playstation 2	4 iMac computers w/ printers

4 SHOP TILL U DROP SHOWCASE



First Draw:	Second Draw:	GRAND DRAW:
10 x P10,000	10 x P25,000	2 x P150,000

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4. Draw Dates and Cut-off Dates are as follows:

First Draw	October 14, 2001	September 30, 2001
Second Draw	November 18, 2001	October 31, 2001
Grand Draw	December 16, 2001	November 30, 2001

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1. All prices are tax free.
2. All prices are not convertible to cash but transferable.
3. Prizes to be given away are allocated on a per region basis. There are 2 MAIN REGIONS namely: GMA/Luzon Region and Visayas/Mindanao region. Prizes to be given away per region are as follows:

SHOWCASE	FIRST DRAW	SECOND DRAW	GRAND DRAW
Fly Away, Drive Away	4 Trips to Hongkong for 4+$500	2 Trips to Thailand for 4+$1,000	2 Ford F-150
Teen Dream	6 Nokia 8850 Cellphones	4 Vespa Scooters	2 Ford Lynx
Kiddie Techno	10 Injusa Electronic Cars	6 Sony Playstation 2	4 iMac Computers with Printers
Shop Till U Drop	10 x P10,000	10 x P25,000	2 x P150,000

4. There will be three draws: October 14, November 18, and December 16, 2001.
5. On each draw date, entries will be drawn per showcase per region.
6. The first valid entry drawn in each showcase per region will be declared as the winner.
7. A winner can only win once per showcase per draw. However, a person can win in another showcase in the same draw.
8. Three fourths of the wrapper, label, pouch or cap must be intact to qualify as an entry.
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10. All raffle promotion winners will be notified via telegram, which will indicate how and where they may claim their prizes. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the date of receipt of telegram shall be forfeited upon approval of DOH-BFAD.
11. When claiming their prizes, winners must present the original telegram of notice and any two valid identification papers: Company ID, Birth Certificate, NBI Clearance, Passport, Marriage/Driver's License or SSS ID.
12. All prizes are transferable provided claimants present the following: Letter of authorization from winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of winner, any two valid identification papers of IDs of claimant and original telegram sent by Goya, Inc.
13. Prizes are subject to availability. Should a stated prize be unavailable for whatsoever reason, Goya, Inc. reserves the right to substitute the prize with another of similar value as deemed suitable by Goya, Inc.
14. Winners can claim their prizes at the [illegible] office on the date indicated in the telegram.
15. Winners of the trips will shoulder and facilitate all documents necessary for the travel.
16. All winners will shoulder transportation/travel expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes.
17. Goya, Inc. reserves the right to publish the names and/or photographs of winners for advertising and publicity purposes.
18. An authorized representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs will be present to supervise all the raffle draws.
19. [illegible]'s decision in concurrence with the DOH-BFAD is deemed final.
20. All employees of Goya, Inc., Nestle Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotion agencies, its packaging supplier, their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are not qualified to join.

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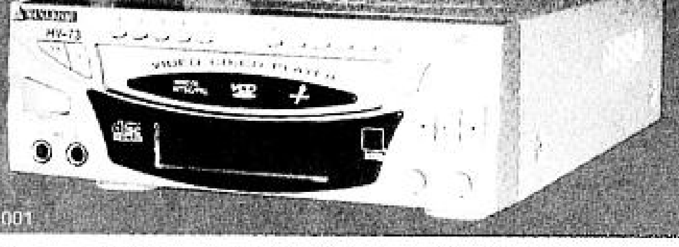

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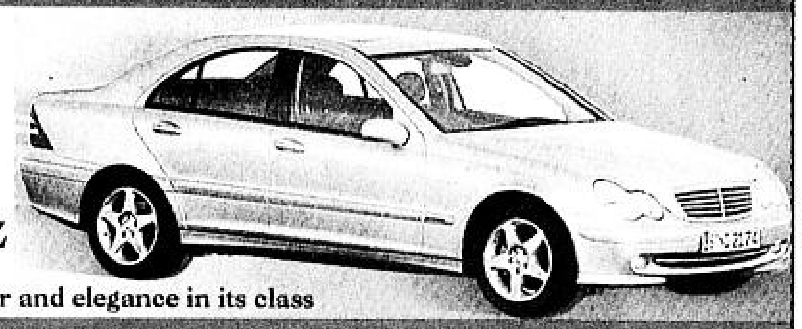

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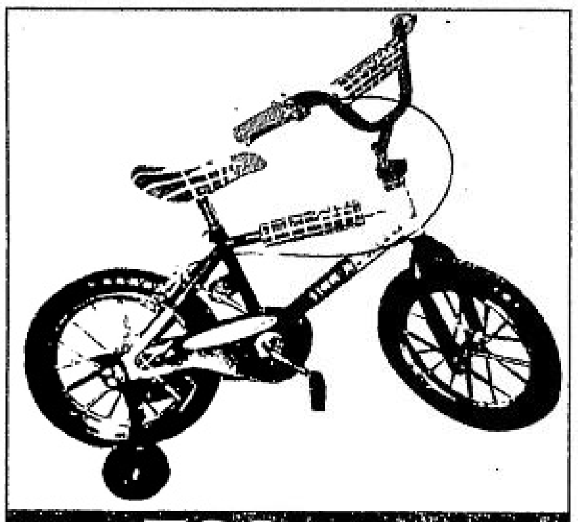

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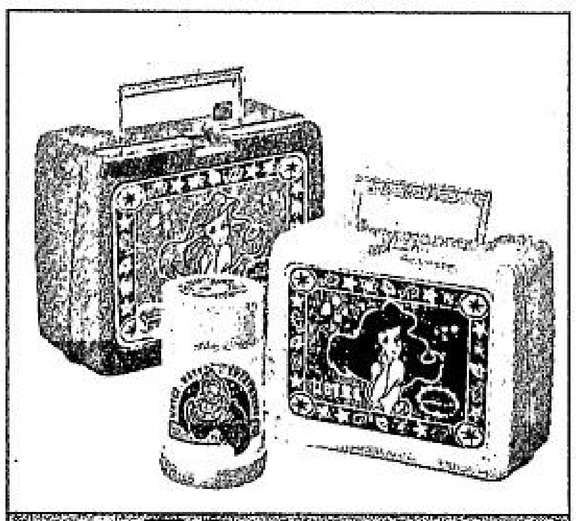

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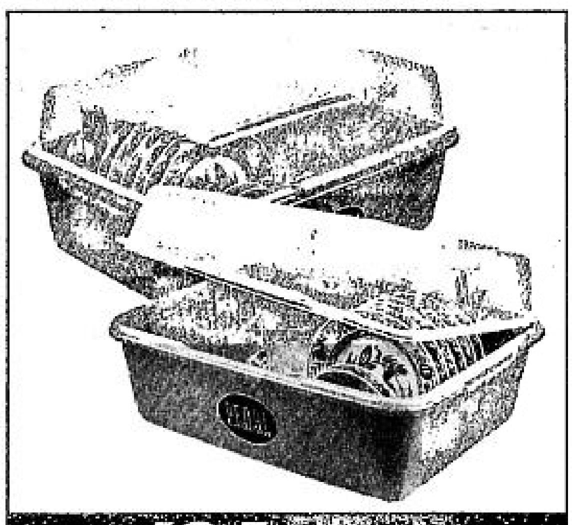

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Saturday SPECIAL

THE PRESENCE of box office stars like Uma Thurman will likely assure a solid audience turnout.

Mick, Uma and Denzel to descend on Toronto festival

BY AMRAN ABOCAR

TORONTO—It's Mick, Uma and Denzel. For 10 days in September, "Toronto the Good" becomes "Toronto the Chic" when those Hollywood celebrities and others light up the 26th International Film Festival, which is often used as a launching pad for Academy Award-winning films.

Dazzling list

Organizers unveiled a dazzling list of films, actors and directors on Tuesday for the festival—considered one of the world's most important, along with Cannes, Venice and Berlin.

They also scuttled fears that this year's event, which runs Sept. 6 to 15, would be a damp squib shunned by major stars.

Appearances by Rolling Stone turned film producer and actor Mick Jagger, box office favorites such as Denzel Washington, Nicole Kidman and Uma Thurman, as well as legends such as director Bernardo Bertolucci and actor Anthony Hopkins, will likely assure a solid audience turnout.

Jagger is showcasing two films: The Second World War romantic thriller "Enigma" starring Kate Winslet, which he produced. The rocker also has a role in "Man From Elysian Fields," co-starring Andy Garcia and Juliana Marguilies.

But festival director Piers Handling insists most Toronto moviegoers are more interested in the art than the celebrity factor.

Different star system

"The festival's largely about showing films you don't have a chance to see elsewhere," Handling told a press conference. "A lot of savvy festival-goers will go see films from countries which they'll never get a chance to see again, and for them it's a different star system. It's more director-oriented."

A little smaller than last year's 25th anniversary festival, the 2001 event will showcase 326 films, including 175 making their world or North American premieres, from 56 countries stretching from Chile to Kazakhstan.

About 60 percent of the films are non-English and the tone is decidedly darker than the previous year, with many films dealing with the Second World War, family dysfunction and loss.

"There's a certain nostalgia in the work this year, a lot of filmmakers, the baby boom generation in particular, who are looking backward in time," Handling said. "A lot of films dealt with angry young people who were often in dysfunctional families and had derelict parents."

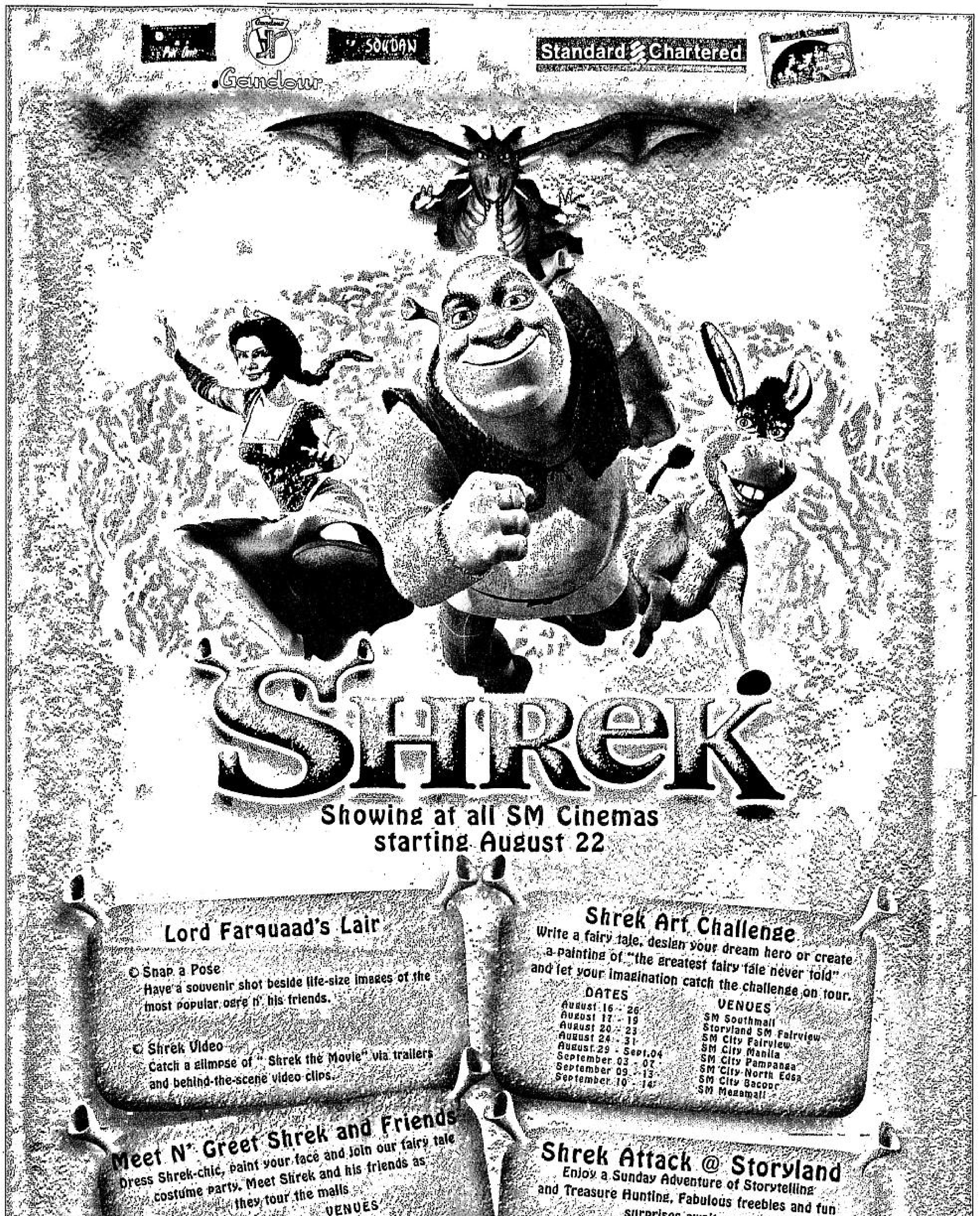
The disenchanted youth theme was apparent in not only American films but Asian and European ones, Handling said.

The film festival will be launched by Canadian Bruce Sweeney's "Last Wedding" and will be closed by Australian director Ray Lawrence's psychological thriller, "Lantana," starring Oscar-winner Geoffrey Rush and Barbara Hershey.

Other films

Other films making their world premiere include "Last Orders" with Michael Caine, "Novocaine," starring Steve Martin and Helena Bonham-Carter, and Scott Hick's "Heart in Atlantis," with Anthony Hopkins.

North American debuts include David Lynch's "Mulholland Drive," David Mamet's "Heist," starring Danny De Vito and Gene Hackman, "From Hell," with Johnny Depp and "Training Day" starring Denzel Washington and Ethan Hawke. *Reuters*



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'Click' is for the young and young-at-heart

By Jocelyn Valle

ATTENDING "Click's" Mega Party recently at the Virgin Café on Timog Ave. made us feel like teenagers again. The cast of GMA 7's youth program (Saturdays, 4 p.m.) beamed with exuberance as they regaled their audience with songs and dances, reminding us of high school.

Aspiring young stars Alessandra de Rossi, Cogie Domingo, Danica Sotto, Jet Alcantara, James Blanco, Biboy Ramirez, Miko Sotto, Russel C. Mon, Maybeline de la Cruz, Roxanne Barcello, Chynna Ortaleza, January Sabale, Tricia Roman, Miles Poblete, Sherwin Ordoñez and Aiza Marquez are not complete tyros in the entertainment world.

Movies

Cogie and Alessandra have shone in movies, earning acting nominations in the process. Cousins Danica and Miko are trying to follow in the footsteps of their famous parents as they regularly appear in Channel 7's drama, comedy and musical shows along with Biboy, Maybeline, Roxanne, Tricia, Miles and Sherwin.

Jet, James, Russel, Chynna, January and Aiza are familiar faces dues to their popular TV ads. January is Carlo (Kalabaw) in a Coke commercial; Chynna is the texting addict in one of the delightful "Magpakatotoo Ka" campaign spots of Sprite; and Aiza is the love struck girl whom her boyfriend compares to a Pop cola.

But, thankfully, they have remained genuinely enthusiastic performers—yes, just like in school presentations where being noticed by your crush was the ultimate thrill since there was still no money involved.

Juvenile years

Maybe that's the reason why, more than ever, youth power is in. Prepubescent and adolescent boys and girls root for entertainers they can relate to. Adults, meanwhile, relive their juvenile years seeing those energetic and fresh-faced teen stars.

Isn't it great to be young? The "Click" *barkada* agrees and cites some of the best things about being 20 years old and younger:

"Having friends. When you have friends, *lagi kang may maaasahan*," offers Tricia, whose best friend in show biz, Trina Zuniga, is no longer part of the show. She now hangs out with Chynna and Maybeline.

Jet concurs. He's involved in sports like basketball, track and field, swimming, rowing and wall climbing with his friends. When they want to slow down a little bit, Jet pulls out a love poem from his notebook and lets his pals make a song out of it.

"CLICK." Youth power is in.

He'll be very happy if it turns out something like the ones in the albums of his favorite musicians like The Doors, Boyz II Men and Carlos Santana.

Chynna finds it great to have a certain freedom to explore life. "I can go out at night now," she smiles, as Tricia, who says her parents are strict, turns green with envy.

Maybeline can have *gimik* nights, too, but she'd rather stay at home because she doesn't like going to noisy and smoky places. "The best thing about being young," she says, "is being able to try everything and get away with it."

Fearless

Nodding, James adds: "Being fearless. You can do everything but you should also be cautious. You must also be who you really are."

At the same time, these youngsters believe that celebrities should be role models, too. "*Dapat maging* careful *ka sa lahat ng ginagawa mo*," points out Maybeline. It's tough, admits James, who feels he isn't worthy of the role model tag yet.

"Click" director Mac Alejandre shares his actors' views. "The show is affected by the fact that people look up to celebrities as role models," he allows. "But we're not limited by it. We don't show kissing on the lips for practical reasons. *Nag-uumpisa pa lang ang mga* career *ng mga batang 'yan.*"

Alejandre is not bothered either by the controversies that stars of previous teen programs had gotten into. "The intrusion of the production staff can only be so much," he explains. "It's the talents' personal choice if they want to get into controversies."

Creating love teams involving cast members, he adds, is a device to attract a bigger audience. The Guy and Pip formula still works, so why not use it again? The on-screen partnership may continue though the director has yelled cut, that's why parental direction is a must. Chastity belts are no longer fashionable, after all.

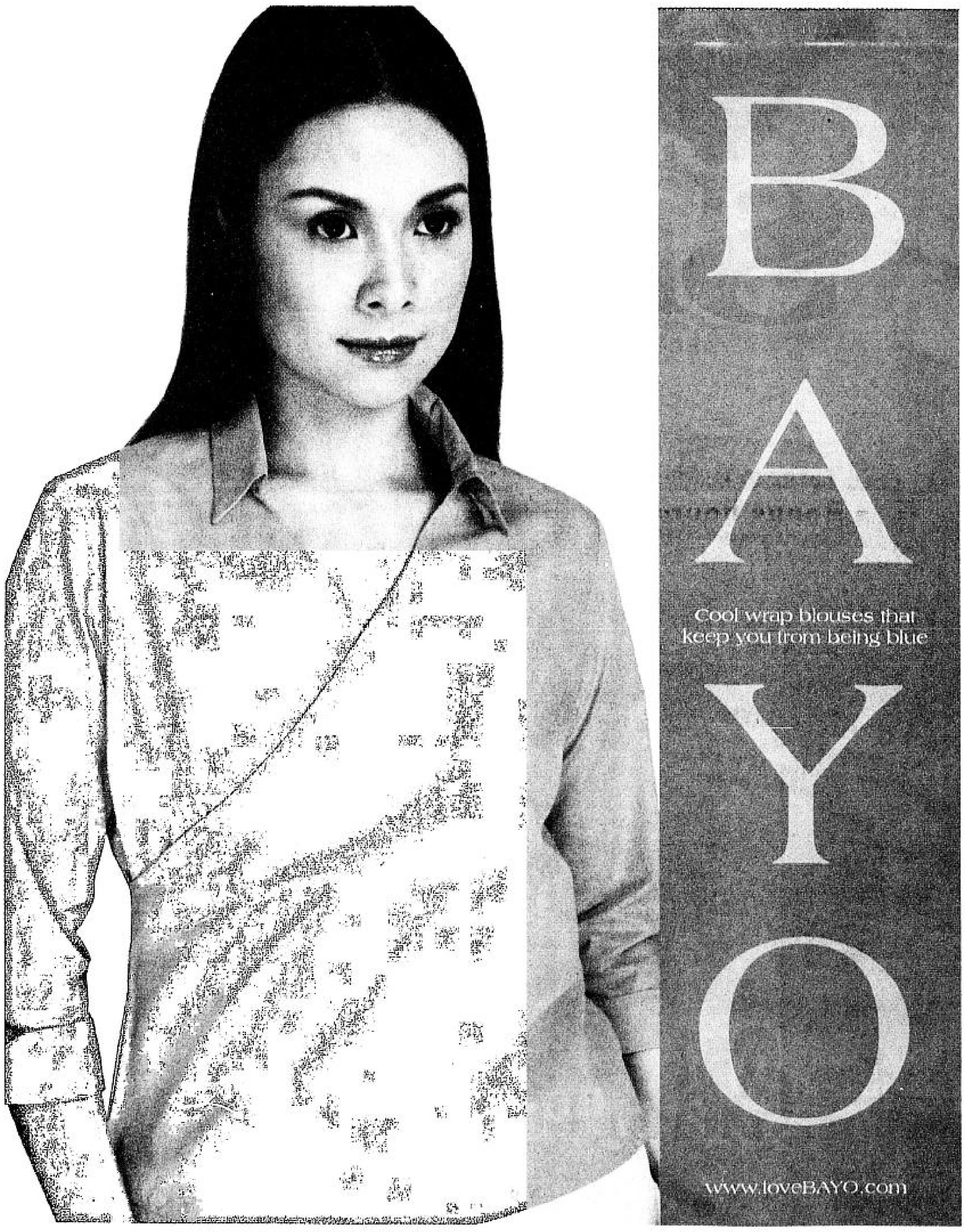
While doing love duets at the Mega Party, the love teams looked smitten with each other, but when we talked to some of the cast members, they all hoped that their friendship would continue to grow. They seemed more interested in the show's success.

"*Sana, mag*-improve *pa ang* show *namin*," Tricia and Chynna chorus as Maybeline chimes in: "*Sana mag*-shine *kami* individually. *Sana magtagal ang* show. *Sana marami pa kaming matutunan.*"

Franchise

As for the show's director, Alejandre's goals for "Click" are: to create a franchise like "TGIS" before that spun out into a movie and another TV show catering to young adults, and to discover and develop new talents and to make sure that they're ready for a show biz career.

Only fate can tell who among the "Click" *barkada* will be the next superstars. Meantime, let them enjoy their youth. It's always fun to be young—and young again!



Lani Misalucha faces her biggest challenge

By Edmund L. Sicam

SINGER Lani Misalucha is the first to admit that she's scared the Araneta Coliseum won't be filled to capacity when she performs in "The Crossover Live Tour" on Sept. 8 at 8 p.m. The Big Dome has a capacity of 17,000 and very few artists have filled the venue. Regine Velasquez succeeded not just once but twice, but even foreign artists have failed to equal Regine's feat.

Guest appearance

Of course, Lani will have help from the concert king, Martin Nievera, who is making a guest appearance along with Side A's Joey G and Malik. But it's still Lani's show and a half-filled venue will be a black mark on her flourishing career.

The Crossover people, however, are not too concerned and would rather concentrate on making the show one that the audience will enjoy, whether there are 7,000 or 17,000 people in attendance.

(It is significant to note here that in previous Crossover tours which were headlined by Martin Nievera and Regine Velasquez, the concerts were always staged at the Ultra.)

If Lani's show at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu is any indication, the Araneta Coliseum audience is in for a fun-filled evening.

We've attended Lani's many presscons in the last two years, but it was only at her Crossover press lunch that we realized how big a star Lani had become. That's because for a change, she was answering questions about this or that *intriga*, something she never used to do at the start of her late-blooming career.

Just like a pro, she breezed through the questions with ease. Someone asked what she thought of performers who look at Lani as a scene-stealer because of her powerful voice. She said she couldn't possibly underperform just because some people feel intimidated by her powerful voice.

We joined the "*intriga*" line of questioning but with a twist. "*May naririnig kaming intriga* about your marriage," we started and right away Lani looked nervously at us. We continued, "We hear that you're very happy with your husband. What's the secret of your happy marriage?"

Supportive husband

Lani just smiled and said she had an understanding and supportive husband who is very secure about her relationship with her. She went on to enumerate her many endearing qualities that no one in the press could argue with.

MISALUCHA. Will she or won't see fill up the Big Dome?

Nothing unsavory has ever appeared in media about Lani's personal life and that's because she prefers to come home after work and attend to her motherly duties. She limits her attendance at social occasions. In fact, those who want to invite her ask her husband Noli, so he can bring his wife along.

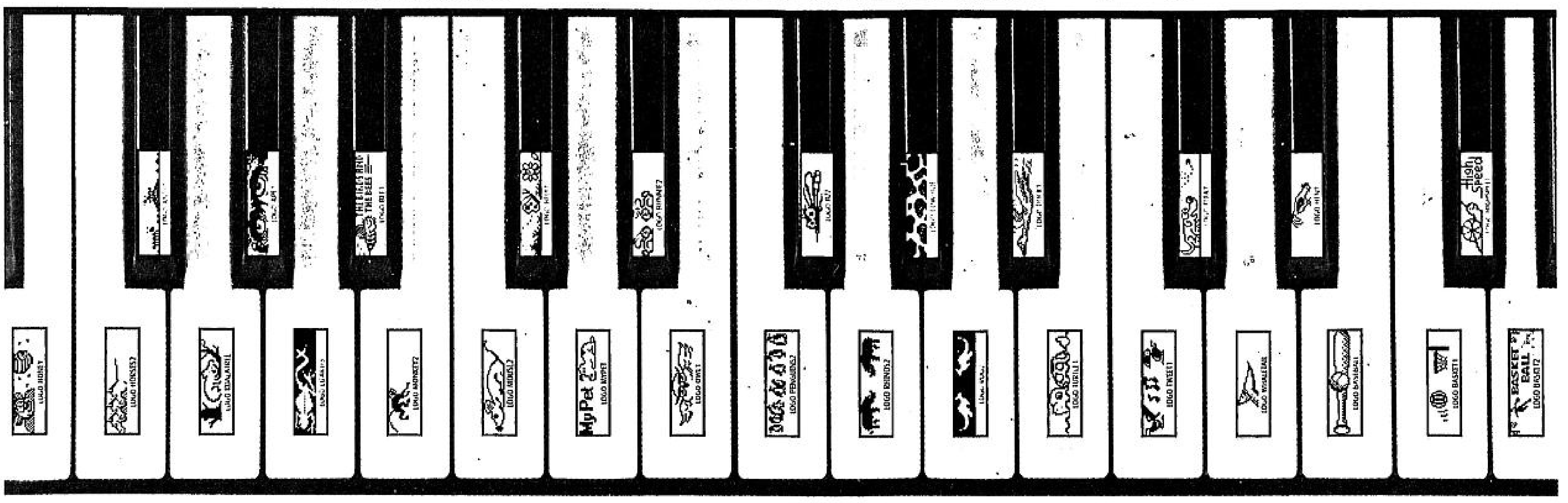
The singer stresses that motherhood, not singing, is still her greatest role. In fact, in speaking about her career, she says it will probably be over in 10 years or less because she wants to have three more children. She now has two kids, aged 10 and 8.

That's not something you'll hear from other singers who put their careers at the top of their list of priorities and wish they can go on performing forever. Lani is happiest doting over her husband and two children , so far, anyway, the perks of being a popular singer have not changed her priorities.

Late bloomer

Lani is a late bloomer as far as entering show business is concerned. She only started getting noticed two years ago when she started winning all kinds of local and international singing contests, and signed up with Viva Records to do several albums. Before long, she was in demand as guest singer and main performer at concerts. Despite her late start, she has managed to catch up with and even surpass other performers.

Before that, she was happy as an anonymous recording artist doing multiplex albums. Her singing talent, however, could not remain anonymous forever and today, Lani's trademark powerful voice (her highest note reaches third octave F sharp) is well-known in the business.



Ryan composes new Mass for Peace

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ON Sept. 4, Ryan Caybayab is launching his newest religious work, "Mass for Peace," a songbook for choir and congregation, at the Megatrade Hall at SM Megamall.

Ryan shares, "Much of the music in this songbook was composed while Edsa 2 was unfolding. I was moved to write many of the songs in this mass after mingling with he throngs of people (their energy was so high!) at Edsa last January, and after viewing the events unfold on TV.

"I have dedicated this Mass for Peace Songbook for choir and congregation to Our Lady of Peace, Edsa Shrine; to People Power 2; and to Concertante Philippines, one of the resident choirs at the Edsa Shrine, composed of alumni from the UP Concert Chorus."

The book contains songs that are sung in the mass proper, like "Panginoon, Maawa Ka"; "Luwalhati sa Diyos"; "Aleluya"; "Santo, Santo, Santo"; and "Kordero ng Diyos."

The "Ama Namin" from "Magnificat" is now part of Ryan's Mass for Peace. He also composed the entrance and exit hymns, plus music for two beautiful prayers, the Memorare and the Prayer of St. Francis of Asissi ("Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace...").

The Mass for Peace songbook containing 14 songs is being sold very inexpensively (P35), to make it easy for people to buy and use it. Ryan is waiving his royalty fees to keep costs down, as his "small contribution to peace in our land."

"Hopefully," he says, "if more people sing these songs during mass, they will get the same inspiration I received while composing the songbook."

Thanks, dear Ryan, for this "small" but potentially huge gift to our country, which is thristing for peace in a time of evil, strife and spiritual unrest.

Thanks, too, to your sponsor, who prefers to remain unnamed. May more people be like you, creating instead of destroying, seeking peace instead of fomenting discord, giving instead of taking, remaining humble and even faceless instead of trumpeting their shallow and hollow self-importance!

Special show for Aris Demavivas

Remember Aris Demavivas? The popular balladeer from the '80s will topbill the special show, "September to Remember" on Sept. 7 at San Agustin University in Iloilo City. The concert kicks off the series of activities leading up to the University's (Aris' alma mater) grand celebration of its centennial on Aug. 2001.

Also performing are Luchie Javier, Malu Sebastian and Jonas Santiago (backup singers). Tony Espejo directs, Noel Espenida is the musical director, and Toti Fuentes accompanies Aris at the keyboards.

Diamond Jubilee concert

Miriam College makes beautiful music on its 75th anniversary. The Metro Manila Community Orchestra, conducted by Chino Toledo, will play Sergei Prokofieff's "Concerto No. 2," Aram Khachaturian's "Concerto in D Flat major" and Lucrecia Kasilag's "Philippine Scenes."

Solo performances are by pianist Reynaldo Reyes and violinist Alfonso Bolipata. The MMCO is a one-year-old orchestra founded by Bolipata with the support of Miriam College. It is a community orchestra which is open to students and professionals alike, with various levels of musical skills. It provides serious training for young musical enthusiasts.

Miriam's Diamond Jubilee concert will be held at Philamlife Theater on Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m. Call. 927-2421 local 218.

OPM letter

CAYABYAB. Inspired by Edsa 2.

To the Honorable Jose Isidro Camacho

Secretary, Dept. Of Finance:

"On behalf of the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM), Asosasyon ng Musikong Pilipino (AMP), Asosasyon ng Pilipinong Kompositor (KATHA) and Phil. Legitimate Stage Artists (Philstage), we respectfully request that you consider the following comments on the proposed 20 percent withholding tax on professional entertainers.

THE METRO Manila Community Orchestra, conducted by Chino Toledo, will perform at Miriam College's 75th anniversary.

"OPM, AMP, KATHA and Philstage represent singers, musicians, composers and live theater actors. While they are broadly classified together with film actors and workers since they all belong to the same entertainment industry, musical and live theatrical productions are quite dissimilar from film.

"There are more compelling and important reasons to reconsider the policy to impose the 20 percent withholding tax regulation on musician and theater workers. Please consider the following facts:

"1. The local amusement tax, while applicable to both movies and live musical and heatrical production, has a more onerous application to the latter. In the case of movies, the tax is an add-on on

RYAN/P. D4

DEMAVIVAS. Iloilo City concert.

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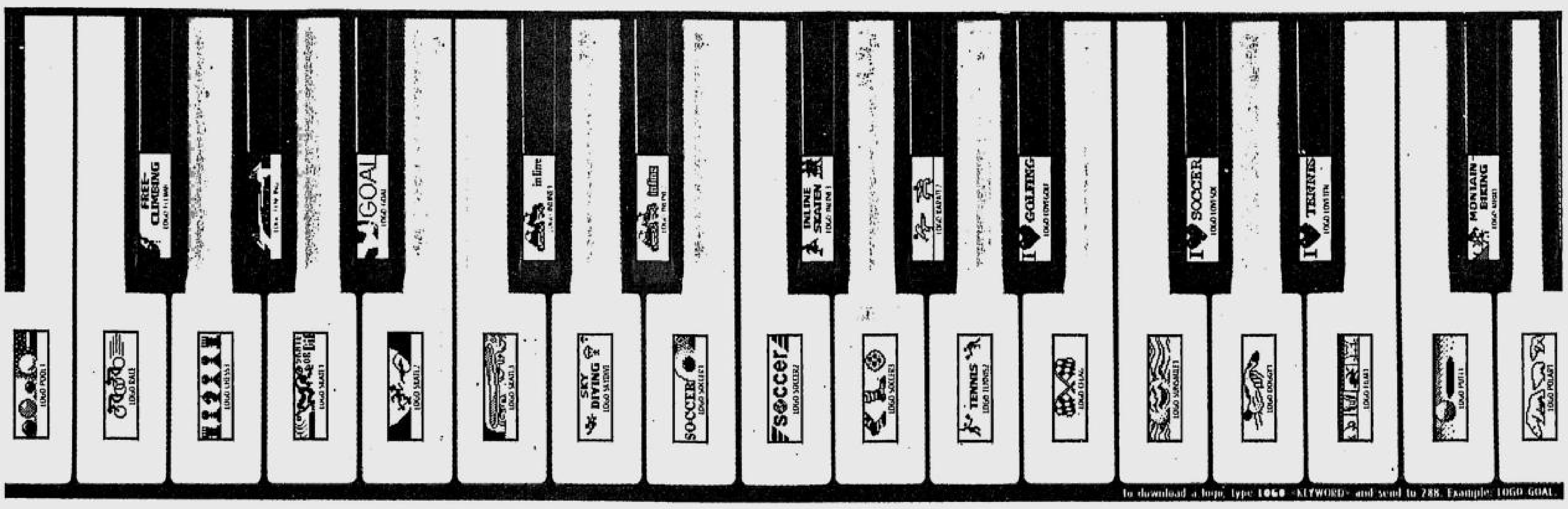

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AM/FM

Alarming statistics

By Rito P. Asilo

THERE'S more to current events than Ping Lacson's alleged money-laundering activities or Loren Legarda's cellphones.

When we tuned in to Radyo Magazine dzRM's "News Bulletin" (1278 kHz, 7 p.m. on AM), we realized the country has been besieged with news involving character-driven criminal activities, and that we, as a nation, regard these as soap operas more than real-life stories that deserve more attention than just plain wonder.

Detachment

We have conditioned ourselves to view these constant sources of international embarrassment with a sense of detachment and amusement.

Out of more than 1,300 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) tested by the Department of Health, more than 22 percent have tested positive for HIV, the virus responsible for AIDS (auto-immune deficiency syndrome): 298 OFWs have tested positive for HIV, and 95 of them have full-blown AIDS, 45 of these have already died. Shouldn't we be alarmed by these staggering statistics?

dzRM's 'News Bulletin' airs warning on AIDS cases among OFWs

The program host commented that this may have been brought about by the sexual liberalism of countries where our OFWs work. But it takes two to tango. Filipinos have not been used to wearing condoms because our faith frowns on contraceptives. If these statistics don't teach us to be more cautious about our sexual indiscretions, maybe it's time we re-examine our priorities, to save lives.

Enlightening

What's enlightening and instructive about these cases is the fact that homosexual encounters are not more prevalent than heterosexual cases, as was previously perceived.

Other than this eye-opening item on AIDS among our OFWs, we were amused by one news feature announced on the program: A daughter was calling for her father, who ran away from home four months ago, pleading for *him* to return home and solve their domestic problems! Times, as they say, are really a-changing!

Welcome news, though, is the proposed plan to incorporate a "Solid Waste Management" course in our academic curriculum to educate Filipinos on what we can do about our recurring, worsening garbage problem. The morning news show also announced the fast-tracking of the MRT-4 project, which will cover 22 kms., running from Muntinlupa in the south to Batasan in the north. MRT-2 will cover 12 kms., from Divisoria in Manila to Santolan in Quezon City. This is good news for Metro Manila commuters who have been enjoying the comfort and convenience of MRT-3 (Taft to North EDSA) since last year.

Tidbits

The radio station, which operates daily from 6 a.m. to an early 10 p.m., also featured tidbits of information on the differences of some art forms: *dula, sanaysay, tula*.

We also heard the usual plug for food supplements and herbal medicine for the treatment of, as the announcer plugged, "*migren, anemic, at kidney stoned*!"

He then announced admission applications for a school, inviting all "*enrollers.*" It did sound like a skateboard to us!

In between their news features, they played music from Billy Idol ("Eyes Without a Face"), the Go-Gos ("Head Over Heels"), OMD ("So In Love")—all new wave icons of the '80s.

Given their preference for this type of music, we were surprised to hear one song from the Jukebox King of the '70s, Victor Wood (Remember "Mr. Blue," "Love Me With All of Your Heart," etc.?), whose "Mama" we vaguely remembered—"*Mama, I know I'm wrong, you're right. But give your son a chance.*"

Very simplistic, maybe, and certainly melodramatic, but we didn't mind listening to it. Our nanny used to sing it to us constantly before she found another Victor Wood song with which to bombard our impressionable young mind!

Ryan . . . (From page D3)

the ticket price and is thus collected only as the patron enters the moviehouse to view the film; in live musical and theatrical productions, the 30 percent amusement tax is deducted in advance from the expected gross sales of the production, regardless of actual public attendance or ticket sales, otherwise the taxing local government will not even release the tickets for sale. This tax is in addition to the 10 percent VAT.

"1. The same movie can be shown four to five times a day, over an extended run of anywhere from one to four weeks, across more than 1,000 moviehouses nationwide. A live musical or theatrical performance by the same performer can be mounted only once in a day before an audience of only several hundreds and can be reprised over a much limited time.

"2. Live musical and theatrical productions have a narrower audience than films. The ballet theater is not popular entertainment. Musical shows are special events, mounted for maximum attendance only at appropriate seasons. These are not all-year, all-week productions. Consequently, to minimize financial risks, musical and theatrical producers can mount only two to three productions a year, preferably only with sure box-office performers and minimum support staff, and only with certain corporate sponsorships, over which producers must compete.

"3. Unlike film actors, live musical and theatrical performers do not enjoy the same broad market and have no access to income other then their live performances. While a notable few have successfully crossed markets, the majority of live performers have no television and movie income. TV guest appearances are usually limited to promotional stints, or if invited, musical and theatrical performers are paid an honorarium. Broadcasting networks have instead developed their exclusive stable performers who are paid regulated rates.

"5. Live musical and theatrical performers, as well as composers, are supposed to receive royalties and residuals from the sale, distribution or public performance of their recorded works. In other, more progressive countries, this income can substantially be more than income from live appearances. Unfortunately, performers and composers in the Philippines do not receive the same largesse despite the existence of laws that guarantee such benefits, thus, after their gainful years are gone, they are left to survive on their own means. If you have more time, Mr. Secretary, we can tell you a story of an excellent singer now reduced to novelty singing in a Biñan karaoke bar.

"OPM, AMP, KATHA and Philstage support the movie industry's stand to reconsider the new withholding tax policy on entertainment professionals, since as discussed above, it is these sectors which will bear the most prejudicial burden. Less than 10 percent of professional singers work regularly on account of their commercial acceptability; local musicians unless they work in Hong Kong clubs or Japanese pub houses, are no better off.

"Indeed, Mr. Secretary, in a few cases, the burden will be bearable; for some of us, paying taxes in advance before they are due will deprive us of means until the next project; but, for most of us, the increased withholding tax burden will, in the end, forever silence our music and still our feet."

Very truly yours,

Mitch Valdes
OPM President

---

10 YEARS AGO

Young action stars get big breaks

By Noelani Torre

REAL life was much more dramatic than anything the entertainment world could cook up during the close of August and the beginning of September, 1991. What with the attempted coup on Mikhail Gorbachev and his subsequent resignation as chairman, the world watched with bated breath as the Soviet Union teetered on the brink of a break-up.

Still, nothing short of the end of the world could stop the show from going on, and besides, Russia was and is a long way from our archipelago. Local show business went on its merry way.

Sigh of relief

Zoren Legaspi, who had been biting his nails over the fate of his launching action flick, could now heave a huge sigh of relief as he was proclaimed to have made it as an action star. "Pretty Boy Hoodlum" passed the box-office test and his career as an action star looked made.

"He's just starting, but he shows a lot of promise," enthused co-star Maricel Laxa. "*Matiyaga siya at desididong matuto.* It is no surprise that his movie did well at the tills. Given enough time and the right projects, Zoren can be another Philip Salvador or Lito Lapid!" Ahem, well, we don't see any sign of that happening now.

Another "promising" action star was Jeric Raval. Folks were gushing over his looks, which they swore were "a cross between Robin Padilla and Ace Vergel." Octo Arts Films was set to launch him with ``Primitivo Ala," which they scheduled for release before the end of 1991. He was also playing the title role in Pyramid Films' ``Anak ng Cabron," which some people thought was significant as Ace Vergel had played the original ``Cabron."

Blockbuster

In other action news, "Terminator 2" became the top-grossing foreign film of all time in Metro Manila. This action-adventure blockbuster, which top billed Arnold Schwarzenegger as a cyborg from the future, hit the P32 million mark in just 11 days of release, toppling "Ghost" from the No. 1 spot (the latter grossed P30.5 million in two months).

Enough with action. Other interesting happenings then were the number of politicians doing guest performances on television and film.

Gen. Fidel Ramos (he was more popularly known as "general" then) appeared on ``Mongolian Barbecue" and was set to play himself in an action-drama movie. Miriam Defensor-Santiago horsed around with the ``Palibhasa Lalake" cast (maybe she ought to have made that her career?) and Senator Teofisto Guingona guested on ``Lovingly Yours, Helen."

Visibility

This was their way of beefing up their visibility for the coming elections, TV and film being the most widely accessed media of information. By showing their more "human" side on the screen, they hoped to get voters on their side. Apparently, Gen. Ramos gave the best performance, given the results of the elections the following year.

Another fad, or what critics suspected was a fad, was the baring of bottoms. Gabby Concepcion showed his in "Gabo" and Cesar Montano in "Sumayaw Ka, Salome."

PADILLA. Two films for Viva in 1991.

They were probably trying to follow in the footsteps of Mel Gibson!

Viva Films was certainly very busy in '91. It was set to release its 10th film for the year – "Kumukulong Dugo." It was also releasing "Ang Utol Kong Hoodlum" and "Robin Good" before the end of the year.

Another project in the wings was "Grease Gun Gang, where two young marketable action leads, Robin Padilla and Raymart Santiago, were to be united. They were also planning to launch Nanette Medved as an "important" star in another version of ``Dyesebel." (One wonders: Is the fishtail supposed to make an actress important?)

Boost

Viva's "Kumukulong Dugo" was also intended to provide a boost for actor Edu Manzano's career. Known for so long as "Mr. Vilma Santos" (another man uses that title now), Edu was lauded for being able to make a name for himself by showcasing his acting talent in several drama movies.

He was, and is, also well known for his *kontrabida* roles, but he wasn't at all worried about being typecast. Edu believed that he had "found his calling" in *kontrabida* parts.

"*Raket ko ang kontrabida* roles," he said. "I find them more challenging and interesting. *Mas may* facets *ang* characters, although it's more demanding. Besides, there are no restrictions in your role, unlike if you're the *bida*, you have to take care of your image.

"Conscious *ka rin* of how the public will accept you for a certain characterization, and you're more careful in choosing your projects."

Spotlight

With "Kumukulong Dugo," however, Edu returned to playing a lead role, sharing the spotlight with Ronnie Ricketts, who he said he enjoyed working with.

Abroad, folks were waxing enthusiastic over then 15-year-old Milla Jovovich, who was starring in "Return to the Blue Lagoon," a sequel to the 1980 hit that catapulted Brooke Shields to fame.

Milla played Lilli, "one of two beautiful youths marooned on an unspoiled tropical island, who grow up to discover natural love."

Well, the movie flopped but that did not faze the model-actress, who was already quite famous at the time. She went on to grace magazine covers and, of course, we remember her most for her unforgettable performances in "The Fifth Element" and "Joan of Arc." Obviously, this girl is more than just a flawless beauty.

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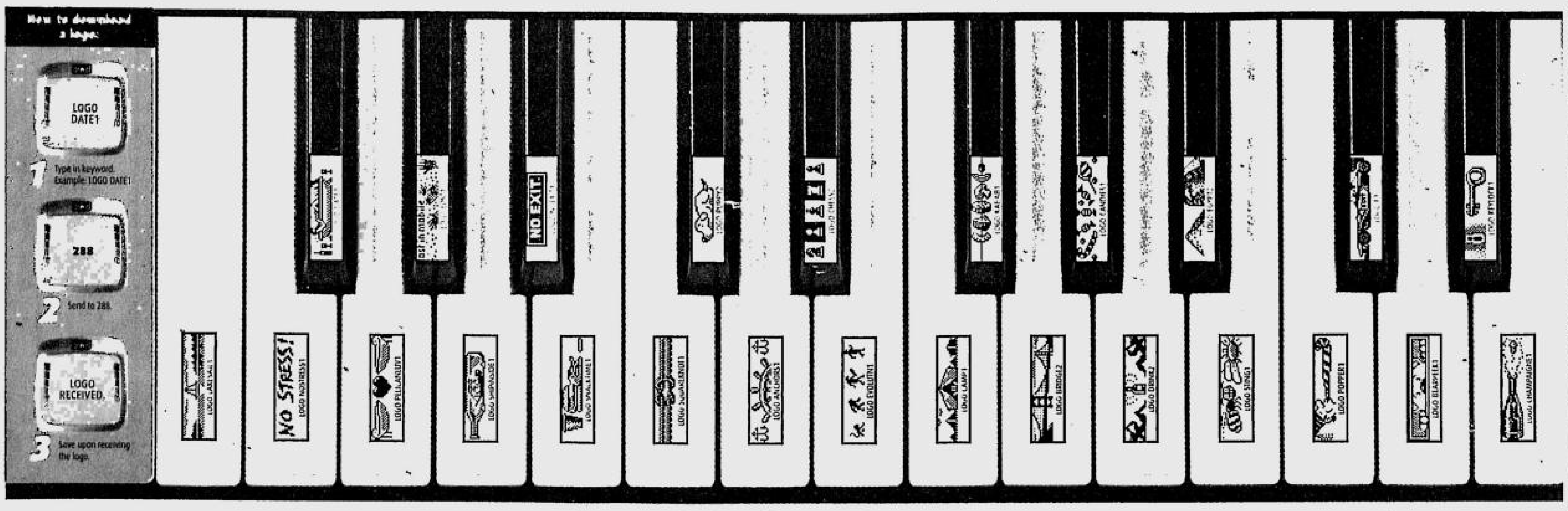

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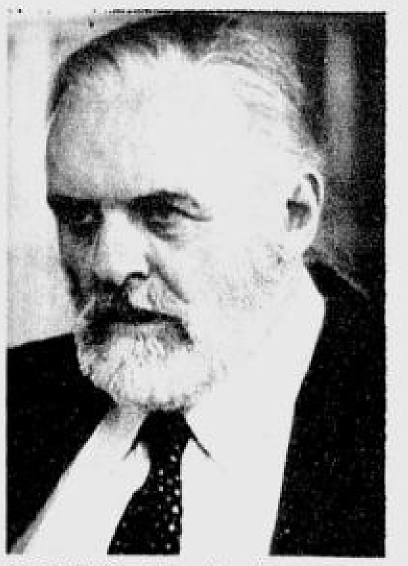
Anthony Hopkins confesses, 'It's just a job'

BY JILL SERJEANT



HOPKINS. Complex loner.

LOS ANGELES—Sir Anthony Hopkins lets out a long, long sigh. "So . . .," he said. "Are we done?"

Hopkins, the Oscar-winning actor who dismisses his work as "just a job," was doing yet another round of interviews, this time to promote two special edition DVDs of his most infamous screen creation—the spine-chilling, flesh-eating gourmet Hannibal Lecter.

Testy

Assistants tiptoe around discreetly, steering him gently from one hushed room to the next. He appears faintly bored, mildly amused and occasionally testy—as if he could eat them all for dinner.

Hopkins has long been a major player in the less-is-more school of acting, stealing a scene with silence or an unblinking blue-eyed stare. At 63, he has reached a state of relaxed detachment in tune with the mellow music of his Welsh voice.

"I don't have any expectations any more. I never did have big expectations. I am very much surprised that I am in this position. I am not cynical, but I am wary. When people say 'We are very excited by this,' I say 'yeah, yeah.' I don't take it to heart," Hopkins told Reuters in an interview.

Phenomenon

The new DVD versions of "Silence of the Lambs" and "Hannibal" (released Aug. 21) celebrate the phenomenon that earned Hopkins the epithet of "the most feared man in America."

They contain several hours of extras, an alternate ending to "Hannibal" and interviews with Hopkins, "Silence" co-star Jodie Foster and "Hannibal" director Ridley Scott.

The accolades appear to cut little ice with Hopkins, even though he won an Oscar for "Silence of the Lambs."

"The part came along. It was successful. If it works, fine. If not, on to the next," he shrugged softly.

The rest of Hollywood is playing a frantic guessing game over whether Hopkins will sign up for a possible third outing as Hannibal in "Red Dragon," an adaptation of Thomas Harris' 1981 crime thriller that first introduced the character to readers.

Hopkins doesn't give a clue. "I don't know, I've no idea. I don't give it any thought. If the script is there and it is presented to me . . . but it would have to be a really good script," he said.

Hopkins has played Richard Nixon, Adolf Hitler, Pablo Picasso, John Quincy Adams, British spy Guy Burgess and an assortment of self-effacing butlers, university professors and doctors—not to mention a British stage career encompassing almost every Shakespearean lead.

But he describes acting as "hardly brain surgery" and has no time for actors who wax lyrical about their "craft."

Dressing room

"I show up in the morning, go to the dressing room, sometimes they dab a bit of makeup on my face for God knows what reason, comb my hair, what's left of it, go on set, and they say action, that's it and I go home," Hopkins said.

"I always have a cup of coffee (Hopkins gave up drinking 25 years ago) and we have a laugh and a talk, but I don't take it at all seriously. I don't want to ever be seen taking it seriously.

"I heard an actor the other day saying with all honesty 'I'm just a story teller' and I thought, give me a break. Come on be honest, it's because you like being famous, you like the work, the money. I don't swallow all that craft stuff," he said scornfully.

Hopkins gave up Method acting—the dig deep into your soul approach—years ago, saying it got him "all tangled up" and instead concentrates his energies on learning his lines, reading the script over and over again "to make doubly sure that I know my part perfectly."

If Hopkins' most memorable roles have been loners like the butler in "Remains of the Day" or men fighting inner demons like Captain Bligh in "The Bounty," it is probably because he is something of a complex loner himself.

British wife

He has made his home in California, living alone in the upscale beach community of Pacific Palisades while his British wife of 28 years, Jenni, lives in London. He loves to walk on the beach, takes long car rides alone "wherever my fancy takes me" and plays the piano with passion and skill.

He angered the British press by deciding to become an American citizen last year, despite being honored with a knighthood by Queen Elizabeth in 1993, and then accepting an invitation to become the honorary mayor of Pacific Palisades.

He lives in a city where movie stars are treated like royalty, yet takes no pleasure in the celebrity status his career and his wealth affords him.

"I have no part in that at all. I live on the coast. I very rarely go out to restaurants with movie actors. I don't have one single friend who is an actor. I don't go to the parties.

"I'm not a recluse," he added hastily. "I just chose to live here because I like it. I came here many years ago and was enamored of it. It's beautiful. I like the climate."

Famous for being restless, he works with the energy of a man half his age, having made three more movies since "Hannibal," but insists, "I'm just taking life easy."

Hopkins has made almost 100 movies or TV films but says he has no favorites.

"I hardly ever watch them anyway. I'll go to a premiere, but that's it. Once it's done, it's done. I hope the audience likes it and if they don't, farewell. I don't care."

Reuters

Walk with faith in your heart

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

IT IS a line taken from an old song but it has a sentiment that aptly applies to the essence of Alay Lakad. Once a year, volunteers can walk from two to 10 kilometers and derive more from it than a health exercise.

Consortium

It is at this time of the year when the Alay Lakad Foundation, a consortium of various government agencies, civic groups, business organization and individuals, mounts this annual walk. This activity has been duly recognized by the Philippine government through Proclamation No. 168, declaring every first Sunday of September as Alay Lakad Para Sa Kabataan Day.

This annual walking project is one of the best examples of fruitful collaboration between public and private entities for a worthy cause.

The walk-for-a-cause activity aims to raise funds for the disadvantaged youth, foremost among them, the out-of-school youth or OSY. The funds generated from this annual event finance the various socio-economic programs and services of the Alay Lakad Foundation for the OSY.

The foundation takes pride in having reached out to over 50,000 OSY and their families in its 29 years of existence. Projects include candle-making, hog raising, poultry, speed sewing and other entrepreneurial efforts.

Leadership

Leadership in Alay Lakad is rotated among the country's most prestigious civic groups, such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Jaycees and this year's host, Lions Club International Multiple District-301-Philippines, with Council Chairman Rollie Inovero as Chairman of the National Executive Committee for Walk 2001.

Frank A. Evaristo, president of the board of trustees of the foundation, supervises the whole activity and the general operations of the foundation.

This year's theme is "Sulong Kabataan, Kapit-bisig sa Pag-angat ng Kabuhayan!" in support of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's anti-poverty platform of government. GMA once served as president of the Alay Lakad Foundation and now chairs its council of advisers.

Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Tefisto Guingona Jr. will lead the annual walk with heads of various government agencies, civic groups, and the diplomatic community.

Parties interested to join the Alay Lakad Foundation may enlist their organization or club to walk for a cause and join the thousands of volunteers at the Quirino Grandstand on Sunday, Sept. 2. Business establishments, can give their donations on the day of the annual walk itself. Or, they may choose to serve refreshments to the expected number of almost a million "walkers" at the Luneta Park.

Another way of contributing is to buy the Alay Lakad 2001 commemorative license for only P1,500. The plate has a validity of 18 months. For more details, call the Alay Lakad Foundation at 523-1539/522-6134/ or email alaylakad@asia.com.

Not to be missed: MANDY NAVASERO Photography Lecture Series every Saturday 9 AM-6 PM and Sunday 2-6PM. Sept. 8 & 9-Portraiture Photography, Sept. 15 & 16 - Glamour and Fashion Photography, Sept. 22 & 23 - Product & Food Photography. October schedule to follow. Venue is the Garden House, No. 1 Sta. Escolastica st cor. Roxas blvd, Pasay City. For details, call 522-1901/05, Tfax: 522-5185, CF: 0916-306-0841, Email: mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph. P2,500 with lunch and snacks.

OSY beneficiaries of the Alay Lakad learn about servicing computers.

ROTARY District Governor 3830 Jun Perez, left, hands a check for P50,000 to former DSWD Secretary Lina Laigo, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Director Rosario Villar and Alay Lakad Foundation president Frank A. Evaristo.

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Applause for UK and Pinoy musicians in 'Fusion!'

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA AND RICKY T. GALLARDO

AFTER causing an uproar in Metro Cebu and Manila, the highly acclaimed showcase, "Fusion!" is set to storm Bacolod City tonight.

The British Council in Manila presented the best U.K. artists and Philippine musicians recently in a rare concert which took us on a highly rhythmic journey from our well-loved classics to Afro-Cuban dance tunes while exploring mainstream jazz, R & B, funky soul and Celtic tunes.

We caught the big event at the Dusit Hotel where we were treated by top-rate UK cellist Matthew Barley , Latin pianist Alex Wilson, violinist Coke Bolipata and the leading men of local jazz, Tots Tolentino, Mar Dizon, Meong Pacana, Bo Razon, Bobby Gomez, Boogie Abarico and vocalist Mon David. Music's big man Toti Fuentes served as the musical director.

Wilson, we learned, is this year's Best New Artist in the BBC Jazz Awards and a self-taught pianist who started playing at the rather late age of 17.

Hailed as the most exciting and vibrant pianist in the UK at present by jazz legend Courtney Pine Obe, Wilson plans music that is a rich blend of traditional and ultra-Latin forms highly influenced by his origins from Sierra Leone. It's also interesting to know that Wilson worked with superstar Nora Aunor when the latter performed in a controversial concert in London a few years ago.

Barley, on the other hand, was a guest principal cellist for the highly-regarded London Symphony Orchestra and the London Philharmonic, and his repertoire ranges from Bach to current world beats.

Two thumbs up for 'I-Witness'

We caught the recent episode of GMA 7's "I-Witness" on "Babymakers" and found it an in-depth and intelligent presentation. Congratulations are in order for Jessica Sojo and her team who, in the first segment, explored the slums of Tondo on a very wet day to talk to the subjects who shared their baby-selling stories.

SOHO. Intelligent presentation of baby-selling stories.

We liked the segment on the "sperm donor," particularly the young donor named John who, despite his not showing his entire face, was both charming and comprehensive in his testimonial.

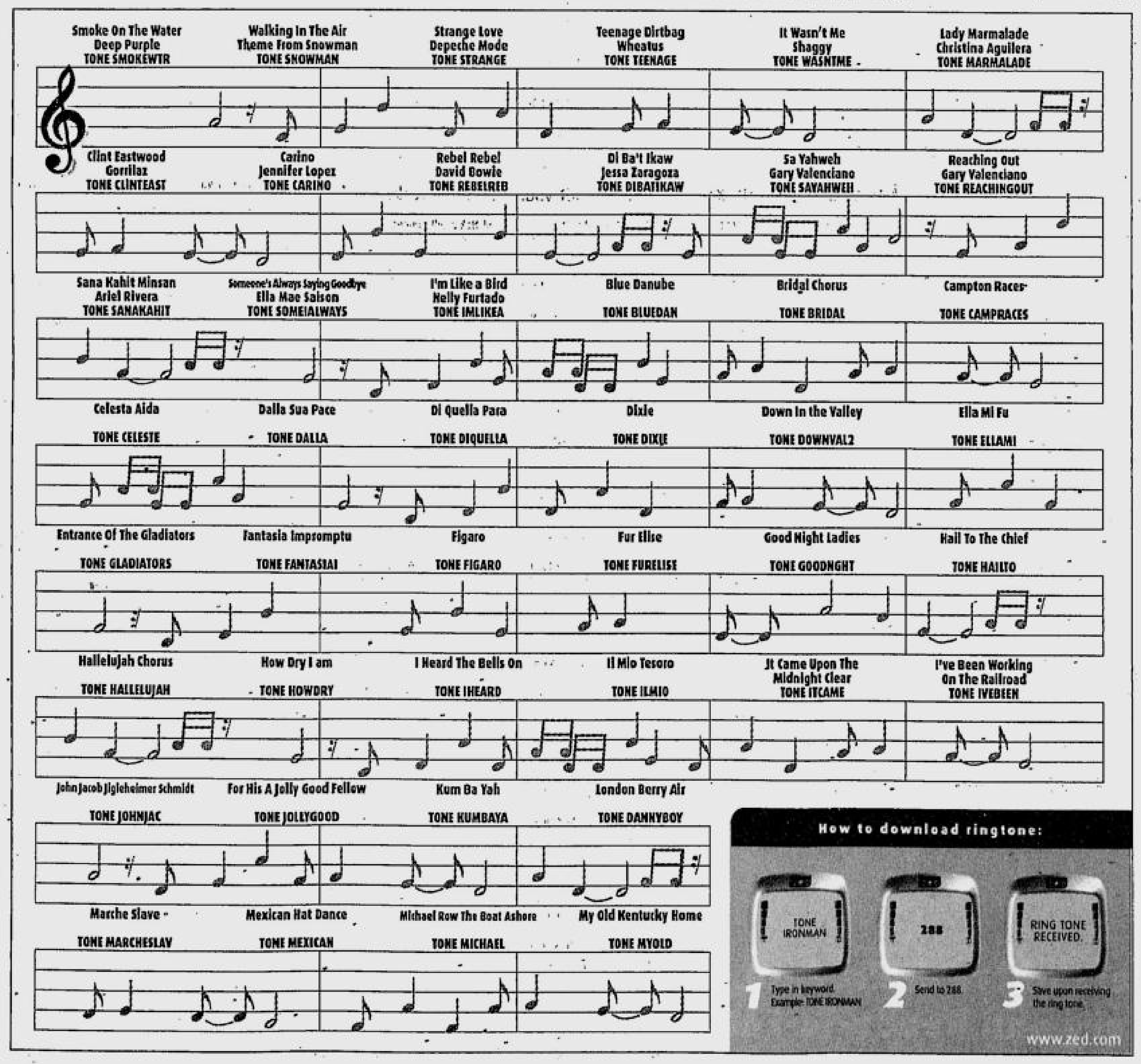
Highs and lows of Jaya's music video

We finally saw the much-talked-about music video of Jaya for her current cover song "Love Hurts" and we reckon that it should get an 'A' for effort. While most videos rely heavily on state-of-the-art computer graphics, and nauseous fade-ins and fade-outs, Jaya's video simply narrated a tale of karmic love, with a lot of fun and amusing highlights on the side.

Although we think that the visuals showing Jaya driving her sportscar are obviously too similar to that of Jennifer Lopez's "Love Don't Cost a Thing" video, it's the twist at the end that becomes the true substance of "Love Hurts."

We learned that Jaya's leading man in the video is a Britnoy (half-British, half-Pinoy) but he didn't seem to have the required X-factor .

We're wondering why Jaya chose another English cover song to be her carrier single. If you can recall she chose to do her version of "Honesty" the last time, but the song didn't climb the charts. Maybe Jaya's strategists should rethink their plans and cash in on Tagalog songs in the league as her signature hits.



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Deep Purple
TONE SMOKEWTR

Walking In The Air
Theme From Snowman
TONE SNOWMAN

Strange Love
Depeche Mode
TONE STRANGE

Teenage Dirtbag
Wheatus
TONE TEENAGE

It Wasn't Me
Shaggy
TONE WASNTME

Lady Marmalade
Christina Aguilera
TONE MARMALADE

Clint Eastwood
Gorillaz
TONE CLINTEAST

Carino
Jennifer Lopez
TONE CARINO

Rebel Rebel
David Bowie
TONE REBELREB

Di Ba't Ikaw
Jessa Zaragoza
TONE DIBATIKAW

Sa Yahweh
Gary Valenciano
TONE SAYAHWEH

Reaching Out
Gary Valenciano
TONE REACHINGOUT

Sana Kahit Minsan
Ariel Rivera
TONE SANAKAHIT

Someone's Always Saying Goodbye
Ella Mae Saison
TONE SOMEIALWAYS

I'm Like a Bird
Nelly Furtado
TONE IMLIKEA

Blue Danube
TONE BLUEDAN

Bridal Chorus
TONE BRIDAL

Campton Races
TONE CAMPRACES

Celesta Aida
TONE CELESTE

Dalla Sua Pace
TONE DALLA

Di Quella Para
TONE DIQUELLA

Dixie
TONE DIXIE

Down In the Valley
TONE DOWNVAL2

Ella Mi Fu
TONE ELLAMI

Entrance Of The Gladiators
TONE GLADIATORS

Fantasia Impromptu
TONE FANTASIAI

Figaro
TONE FIGARO

Fur Elise
TONE FURELISE

Good Night Ladies
TONE GOODNGHT

Hail To The Chief
TONE HAILTO

Hallelujah Chorus
TONE HALLELUJAH

How Dry I am
TONE HOWDRY

I Heard The Bells On
TONE IHEARD

Il Mio Tesoro
TONE ILMIO

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear
TONE ITCAME

I've Been Working On The Railroad
TONE IVEBEEN

John Jacob Jigleheimer Schmidt
TONE JOHNJAC

For His A Jolly Good Fellow
TONE JOLLYGOOD

Kum Ba Yah
TONE KUMBAYA

London Berry Air
TONE DANNYBOY

Marche Slave
TONE MARCHESLAV

Mexican Hat Dance
TONE MEXICAN

Michael Row The Boat Ashore
TONE MICHAEL

My Old Kentucky Home
TONE MYOLD

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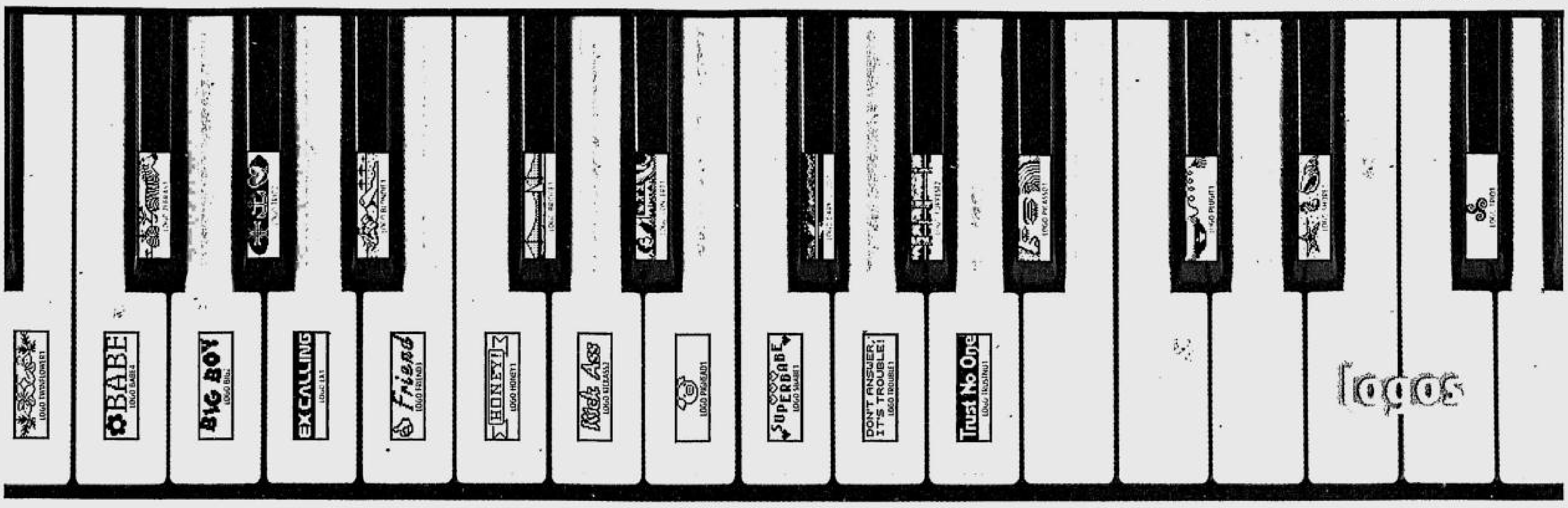

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Total entertainer Sammy Davis, Jr. was bigger than life

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN people ask us who is the best male singer we've ever seen perform, they are often surprised by our choice: no, not Rico J. Puno, not even Johnny Mathis, Tom Jones or Ricky Martin, but Sammy Davis, Jr.

Privileged

We were privileged to see Sammy perform in Manila in the '70s. Even better, we saw the show with *the* Elvira Manahan, so we were given special seats in front, where we could savor every detail of Sammy's performance, as big as life.

No, bigger. Because Sammy didn't just sing, he danced up a storm, he hit impossibly high notes and held them for an unimaginably long time. Or else, he did love songs in a passionate whisper, twanging heartstrings all over the place.

Not only that, he also shared intimate recollections about his colorful life and failed relationships, so honest and up-front that his audience empathized completely with him.

Even better, he made sure that we learned from his experiences—to seize the moment, to love unstintingly, to reach out to others, to scale the peak of our potential.

Giver and sharer

Sammy was such a giver and sharer that his audience quickly forgot that he was alone on that huge stage, except for his small band of accompanying musicians.

Less gifted and charismatic performers can sing solo for an hour, tops, before their audience starts to fidget. Sammy kept his audience enthralled for almost three hours, all by his lonesome!

He was so versatile and enthusiastic that it sometimes felt like there were *eight* solo performers on that stage—Sammy the singer, the hoofer, the stand-up comic, the actor, the film star, the pop philosopher, the rabble rouser, and the poet!

He gave and gave, of his talents and more importantly of himself, until there was nothing left. When his special concert finally came to its rousing conclusion, Sammy was completely exhausted, but his audience was elated, filled with the zest for living and loving that he had so unstintingly shared with them that night.

Fans for life

With his false eye, lopsided grin and gimpy walk, Sammy wasn't exactly a debonair balladeer! But he won many hearts that night, captivating listeners who, like us, would remain his fans for life.

Because he had gone beyond performing. He had used his songs to create small dramas, comedies, sermons, soap operas and true-confession playlets, to share something personal and sometimes profound with his listeners, and we were all properly, passionately grateful.

Interestingly, our Sammy Davis, Jr. story doesn't end with his curtain call. After the show, he was completely spent—but he was still raring to party! He invited Elvira to join his group in a hotel for drinks and stuff, and naturally, we tagged along.

Well, instead of relaxing, Sammy bowled us over by putting on another show! He loved performing so much that he didn't care that, this time, he wasn't getting paid.

Terrified

Ever the gracious host and life of the party, Sammy also urged his guests to share *their* musical talent. That was fine for the gifted, experienced likes of Elvira and operatic singer Lilia Reyes, but when he pushed *us* in front of the mike (Elvira had naughtily whispered into Sammy's ear that we had played lead roles in some stage musicals), we were absolutely humbled—and terrified.

But Sammy encouraged us to sing a tune, and after we had thrown caution to the wind and belted out a number, he led the "ovation"—and, with great generosity, declared for everyone to hear, "Hey, that was great—for a moment there, I thought I was going to lose my job!"

Well, you can imagine how thrilled we were when he said that. Of *course*, he was exaggerating, but he made our night—no, our year!

So, now you know why, in our book, Sammy Davis, Jr is the best male performer we've ever experienced. No, that's not it. Even if he hadn't given us such a generous boost, he would still be our choice!

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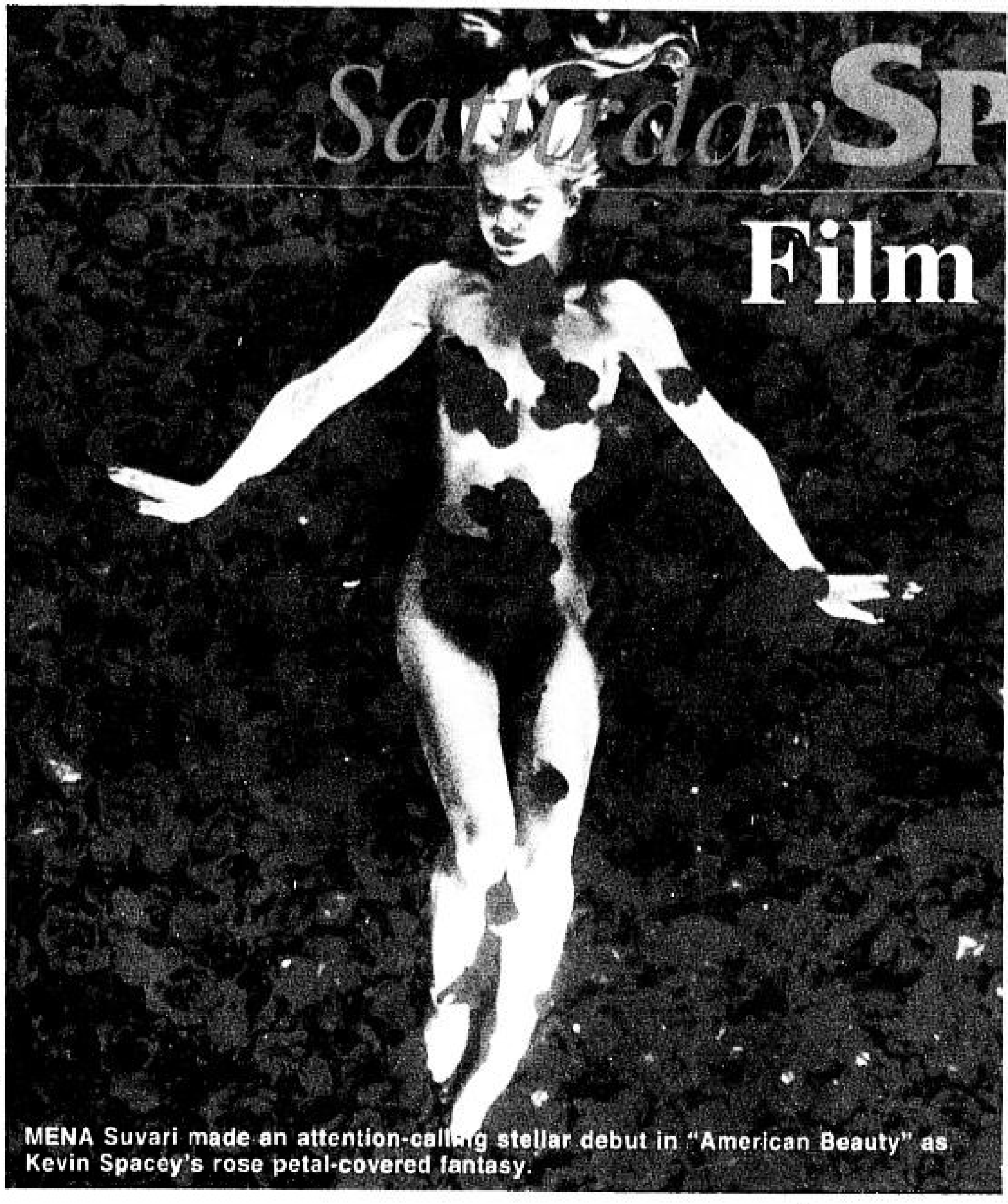
Saturday SPECIAL

Film nudity challenges young performers

Many young movie actors say they approach nudity on a case-by-case basis



MENA Suvari made an attention-calling stellar debut in "American Beauty" as Kevin Spacey's rose petal-covered fantasy.

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—Baring her body in "Ameri can Pie" exposed Shannon Elizabeth to the expectation that she'd strip for the camera again.

"But I knew if I wanted to be in the business until I'm 80, which I do, I'd have to turn those things down for now," the 24-year-old actress said.

Exchange student

Elizabeth reprised her role as Nadia, the sexy Czech exchange student, in the new "American Pie 2," but insisted on one major change—no nude scene.

Luckily, she said, the writer and director didn't try to change her mind.

Many of her "American Pie" cast mates also have done nude scenes in their young careers, such as Mena Suvari in "American Beauty," Tara Reid in "Body Shots," even Jason Biggs.

After taking their clothes off in one movie, the performers agreed it can be difficult to make other filmmakers accept a refusal to bare all again.

Although most actors insist they'll only perform nude for art's sake, scenes that tap into moviegoers' voyeuristic urges can boost a film's earnings or create an instant fan base.

Topless scene

Halle Berry's brief topless scene in this summer's "Swordfish" has been credited with boosting the film's nearly $70 million gross by attracting droves of curious male fans.

Berry denied reports that producers paid her an extra $500,000 for it, saying she agreed to the scene because it was liberating.

"To me, playing a character who was that in control of her sexuality, who was that comfortable with herself, was the challenge—to pull that off and not sit there looking scared to death, like I felt inside that I was," she said.

People have taken their clothes off in front of the camera as long as there have been cameras, but nudity vanished from mainstream American film because of the Hays Code restrictions, which went into effect in 1930 and prohibited explicit portrayals of sex, violence and profanity.

European films continued to feature nudity, though, and actresses such as Brigitte Bardot became icons of sexual freedom. Meanwhile, some US stars such as Elizabeth Taylor in 1963's "Cleopatra" pushed the boundaries by appearing in brief semi-nude scenes.

Then American critics began attacking the Hays Code over restrictions placed on the acclaimed 1966 British drama "Blow-Up," which featured full frontal female nudity. (A new ratings system was instituted in 1968 by the Motion Picture Association of America, which served as a guideline for parents without restricting a film's content.)

Many young performers say they approach nudity on a case-by-case basis.

Fantasy

The chance to play Kevin Spacey's rose petal-covered fantasy in "American Beauty" changed Suvari's mind about taking off her clothes. Her character, a cheerleader who acts like a sexpert, reveals her inexperience by becoming frightened when Spacey unbuttons her blouse.

"I always said, 'I'm never going to do nudity. I'm never going to be that kind of actor,'" Suvari recalled. "But that movie's so symbolic, and the scene that I had is more about the unveiling, the revealing of the character."

Now Suvari, 22, is back to her no-nudity policy because she doesn't want to be typecast as an actress who takes off her clothes.

Filmmakers say the more nudity required for a role, the more difficult it becomes to cast it with a well-known performer.

Director Wayne Wang said many actors turned down the lead roles in his sex drama "The Center of the World" because of the nudity requirements.

Wang used body-doubles for some of the more explicit scenes and tried to push the limits of what the actors would do. In one discussion, Wang asked them if they would engage in real sex during a scene. "They weren't too comfortable with that," he said.

The movie's leading man, Peter Sarsgaard asked him: "Do I really have to slash my wrists if I commit suicide as a character?"

The negotiations for a nude scene can be an intense, detailed process, said Los Angeles-based entertainment lawyer Harris E. Tulchin.

Negotiations

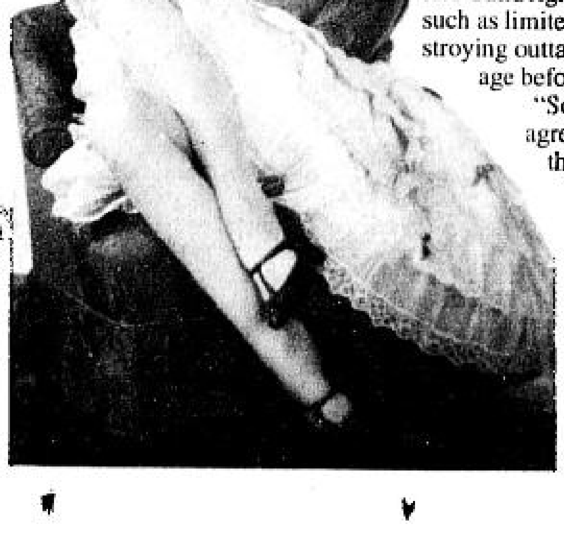
"There are very specific negotiations about whether breasts, nipples or pubic hair can be shown at all, whether the camera can go above the navel, below the navel or above the knees," he said. "This is all language written into the contract."

Only rarely will a producer offer extra pay specifically for nudity, although the actors' representatives frequently seek for more compensation.

Performers typically are more interested in getting their Screen Actors Guild rights pertaining to nudity, such as limited access to the set, destroying outtakes or reviewing footage before the final edit.

"Sometimes an actor will agree to a nude scene and then try to back out of it. They're in their dressing room saying, 'I just can't do this,'" Tulchin said.

FILM/p.E2



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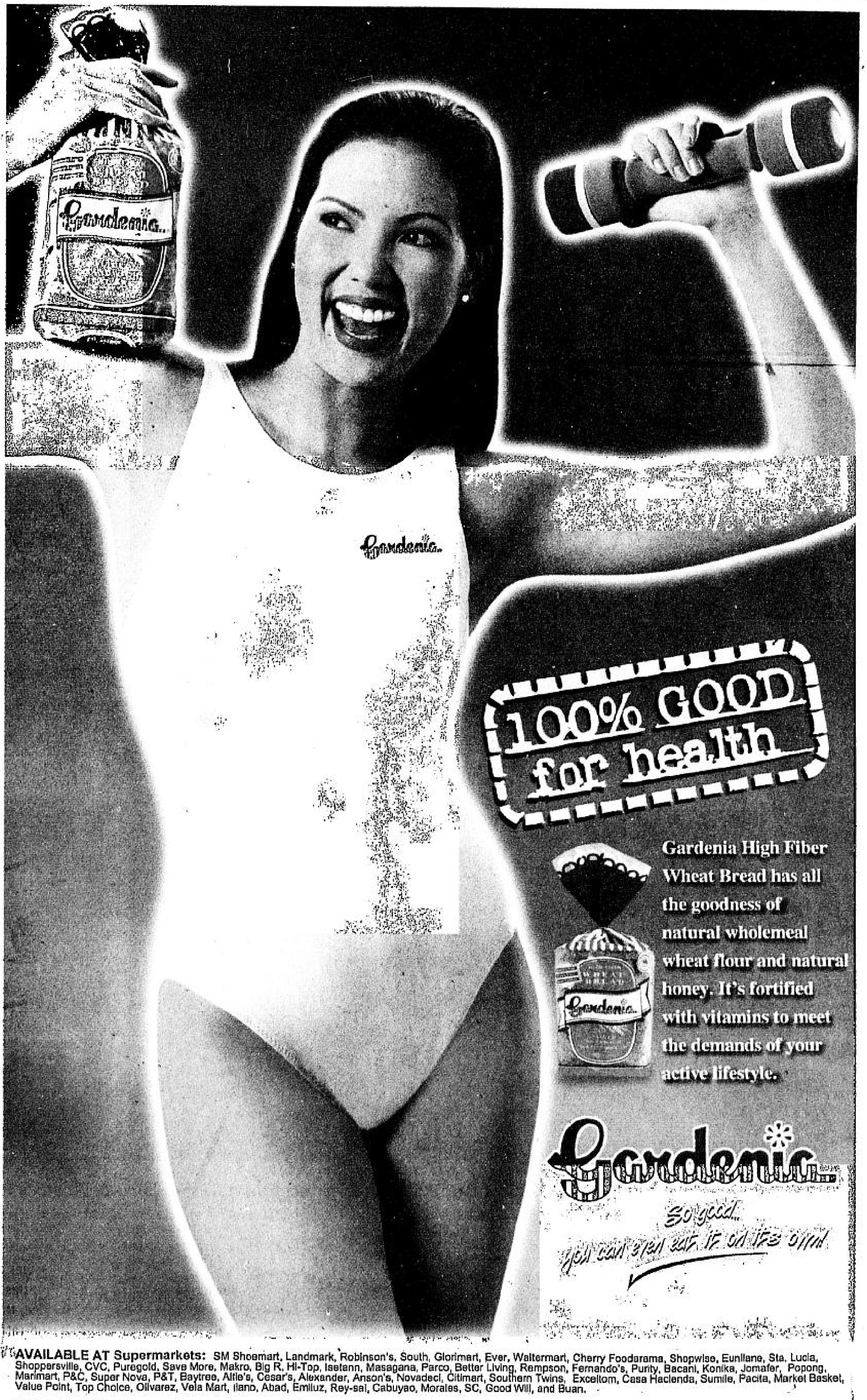

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Focus on Asian films

By Nestor U. Torre

ASIAN movies and filmmakers have become such a major force in the film world that they deserve special attention, hence this new regular feature that we're launching this week.

Spotlight

Our hope is that the spotlight that we throw on the Asian film scene will heighten Asian film buffs' awareness of and appreciation for the movies made in this region, and by "exported" Asian talents in the film capitals of the world.

From Thailand: "Suriyothai," the most expensive movie ever made by Thais (with a 400 million-baht—$9 M—budget) is a big hit, playing at a record 400 theaters.

Big-budget movies have become rare in Thailand, whose heretofore progressive movie industry now makes less than 10 films a year! But Queen Sirikit made it a point to back the "Suriyothai" project, which has turned out to be a great success.

Epic

It is hoped that the 3 ½-hour-long epic's good showing will revive interest in other Thai-language films as well, and lead to a resurgence of the Thai movie industry.

"Suriyothai" is about a heroic 16th-century queen who overcame obstacles to make sure that her husband became king. At film's end, however, Queen Suriyothai died in a battle against the invading forces of the Burmese King.

Queen Sirikit initiated the project to revive young students' interest in Thai history. The film took five years to research and two years to shoot. Its producers' next step is to sell the movie to film markets abroad. With its scale, scope and production values, it is felt that it has a good chance being shown worldwide.

Master

In Japan, meanwhile, Hayao Miyazaki, the master of Japanese animation, has premiered his new film, "Abducted by Spirits," and hopes are high that it will also be released overseas.

Four years ago, Miyazaki caused a sensation with his "Princess Mononoke," which ended up as the most successful Japanese film ever made. Not only did it garner critical raves, but it was also a huge blockbuster at the box office, beating even "Titanic" with its record gross of 11.3 billion yen ($93 M)!

"Princess Mononoke" was also released in France, Hong Kong and Taiwan. The filmmaker trusts that "Abducted by Spirits" will similarly find an international audience, so that its domestic earnings will be further boosted by revenue from other film markets, which he intends to plow back into boosting the resources of his animation company, Studio Ghibli.

ASIAN movies like "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" have done well in Hollywood.

Homegrown Asian films

What can we learn from "Queen Suriyothai" and "Princess Mononoke"? That homegrown Asian films, provided they're well-made, *can* beat Hollywood movies at the box office.

Imagine, the mighty "Titanic" being trounced by a Japanese production? This indicates that Asian viewers *will* put their colonial mentality on hold if an Asian movie deserves their avid patronage.

Queen Sirikit's support for "Queen Suriyothai" is something else we can learn from. It shows how influential important and admired national figures can be in pushing for the production of worthy film projects.

How come outstanding Filipino films aren't given such support? They're forced to sink or swim on their own in the commercial movie market, so it isn't surprising why so few producers dare to "gamble" on substantial films.

Superlative production values

Finally, note that "Queen Suriyothai" cost a lot of money ($9M) to make—but it's earned 10 times that at the box office. This proves that a big budget, if judiciously spent on a popular project, can pay for superlative production values that moviegoers will gratefully reward with their enthusiastic patronage.

Even better, they will give the film generous word-of-mouth publicity that will further boost its viewership, and enable it to realize as high as a 1,000-percent profit on its initial investment. And this doesn't even include potential foreign earnings.

Film nudity . . .

(From page E1)

makes the actor comfortable."

Such situations are common enough that they were parodied in David Mamet's Hollywood satire "State and Main," which featured a subplot about an actress who balks at a nude scene stipulated in her contract. The crew is baffled because she's notorious for numerous nude scenes in other films.

Undercut

The director's effort to persuade her is undercut when she overhears a crewman joke that most moviegoers can already draw her breasts "from memory."

Reid, who plays the romantic sexual novice Vicky in the "American Pie" movies, said no filmmaker has tried to talk her into a scene that makes her uneasy.

"I absolutely feel comfortable resisting," Reid said. "You just tell them at the beginning, 'There's going to be no nudity in this role.' And if they want you bad enough, they'll say, 'OK.'"

The 25-year-old agreed to perform two nude scenes with actor Jerry O'Connell in the 1999 drama "Body Shots," about a one-night stand that may have been rape.

In his flashback, the scene is an erotic consensual romp. In her version of the event, O'Connell's character brutally attacked her.

The decision to bare her breasts, she said, "was particular to the role. If the role really calls for it and it helps the character and helps you understand it more, (the nudity) makes sense. But if it's just to show T&A for no reason, I wouldn't do it."

The only major cast member to flash skin in "American Pie 2" turned out to be a man—Biggs, who credits nude scenes with enhancing his comedy career.

Rooftop

In the first "American Pie," he dropped his pants to sample the feel of an apple pastry. In the sequel, his hapless character becomes trapped on a rooftop with his hands glued to his naked body.

"I pride myself in being an actor who will do just about anything for a laugh," he said. "If it's funny I'll do it . . . Whatever, it's just my butt."

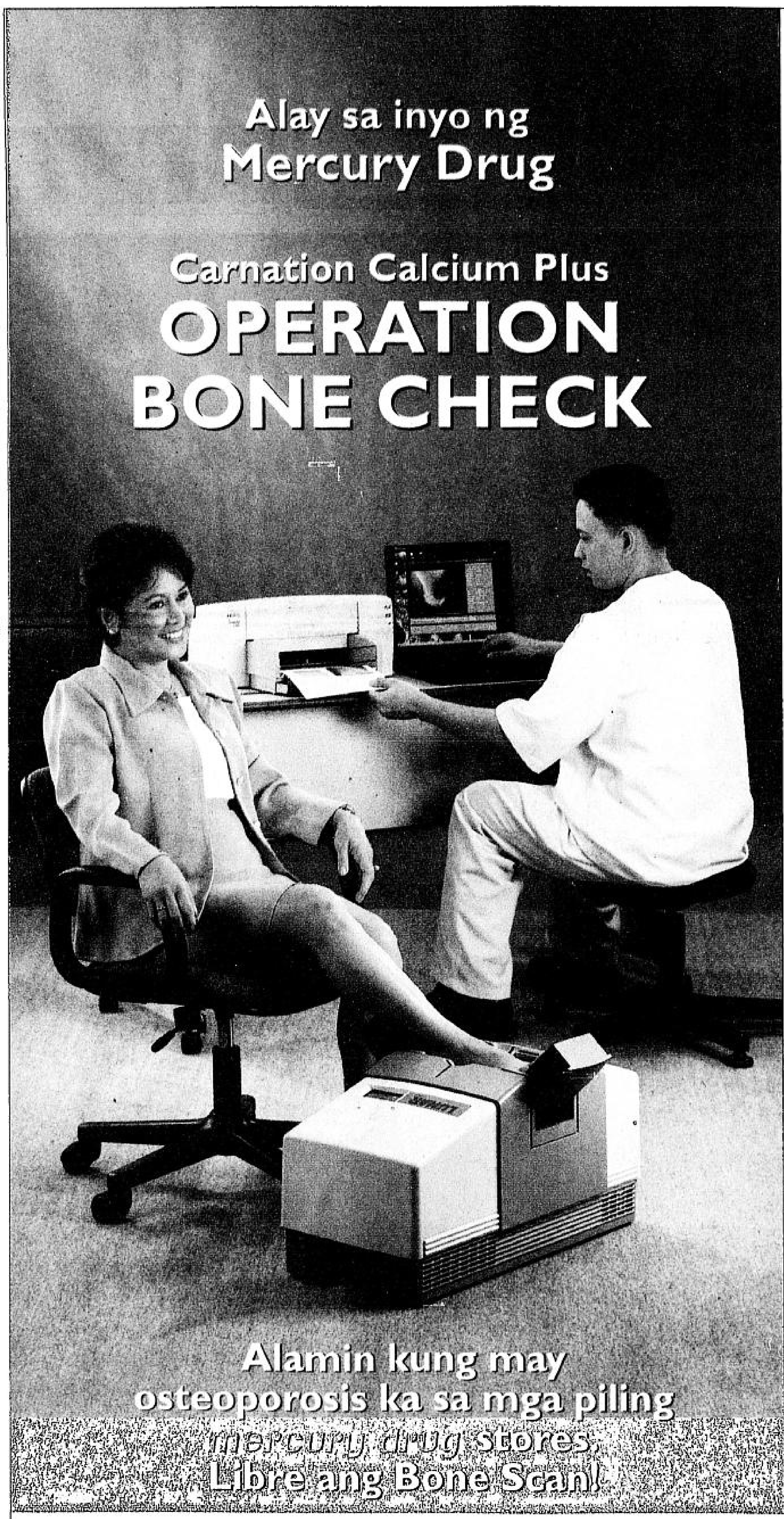
It's not uncommon for actors to flash their backsides (even Charlton Heston did it in the original "Planet of the Apes") but some actors such as Harvey Keitel in "The Piano," Kevin Bacon in "Wild Things" and Geoffrey Rush in "Quills" have done full frontal nude scenes.

While Biggs hasn't gone that far, the 23-year-old actor feels: the bigger the risk, the bigger the laugh.

"I'd be lying if I said that on the day of filming the pie (scene) I wasn't nervous and scared and questioned a little bit what I was about to do," he said. "Once I went for it and left my inhibitions aside and saw the eventual success—not only of the scene but the film as a whole—it made me much more comfortable and eager this time around to take it to a whole new level."

It hasn't been as easy for Elizabeth, who appeared with Biggs in her original "American Pie" nude scene. She often has called her agent to defend her no-nudity contracts.

Still, she says: "I'll never say, 'I'll never do nudity.' I have no problem with it if it's not gratuitous." *AP*



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Carlos Agassi: Behind the pretty boy image

BY MONA GONZALEZ

TO HIS many young fans (including hordes of screaming young girls), Carlos Agassi, 21, is a "pretty boy." And that becomes self-evident when you see him on TV hosting "ASAP," or starring opposite Claudine Barretto in "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan"); doing movies ("Dekada '70 with Vilma Santos—temporarily on hold due to the death threats that Vilma has received); on stage as a rapper with his group, "The Hunks"; or endorsing products such as Hanford briefs or Shakey's Pizza.

Carlos admits that his show biz image is skin-deep. "When you see me on TV or read the tabloids, they show the young, happy-go-lucky side of me," he says. "But they should see me at home.''

Genuinely charming

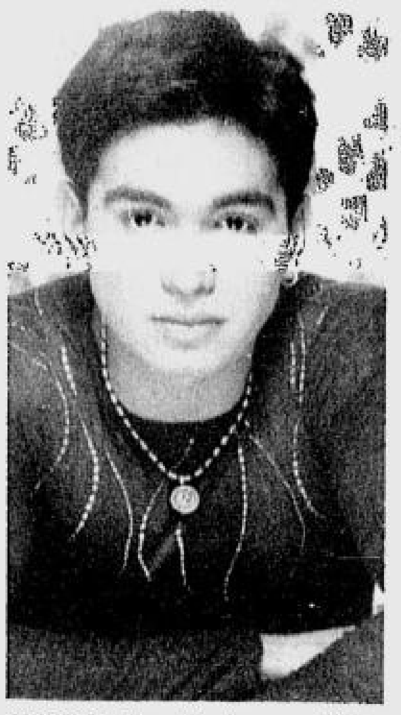
It would be easy to be swayed by the superficialities because, aside from his looks (and, I am told, his abs of steel), Carlos is genuinely charming. But underneath the "pretty boy," a real boy lives.

The first hint of the real boy surfaced when Carlos shed tears on "The Buzz," while talking about his father, an Iranian-Italian general and war hero who fought in the Iran-Iraq war.

His father was abusive and Carlos was a battered child. But Carlos also recalls, "He trained me in boxing and soccer. He'd say, 'If you want something, work hard, don't cheat.'"

He says he got some of his physical features from his father, but he is a very different person. "My father was a soldier, but I'm more peaceful," he says. "When I'm angry, I'd rather talk it out, and settle things before they get worse."

Carlos Amir Agassi uses his biological father's surname. His middle name, "Amir" means "Prince" in Farsi (the Persian language). Carlos lived in Iran until he was six years old, when his father died.



AGASSI. Lived in Iran until his father died.

Culture

He says life was not easy in Iran, amid a culture that did not treat woman as equals—and foreign wives of Iranian men, even less so. "I'm 100 percent Filipino," he says.

Life's ups and downs taught him to respect women and value money. To make ends meet, his mother opened a beauty parlor and tailoring shop in Palanan, Makati. When Carlos was eight, a Saudi man came into the shop to have his suit adjusted. He looked at Carlos and said, "I'm gonna marry your Ma because of you. Who is she?"

The "pretty boy" pointed her out, then the man walked up to her and said, "This suit is small. Will you marry me?" She replied, "You have to court me first." Today, after years of courtship, he is Carlos' stepfather. And he often reminds Carlos that he married the mother because of the son.

Carlos has since reconciled his past with his present. He says he learned discipline from his biological father, and love of family from his mother. From school he learned the Catholic faith. As a boy, he was a sacristan.

When he travels, the "pretty boy" is often mistaken for other nationalities. "In New York, they thought I was Italian. In Iran, they thought I was Greek. Here, they think I'm *mestizo*," he grins.

No place like home

He adds that he has visited Iran with his stepfather and says, "I can tell when someone is Persian. But there's no place like home." Then he stresses, "Here."

Carlos says he loves his stepfather, who runs his own business in Saudi. "He's our savior," Carlos says. A third brother was added to their family, who is also entering show biz.

He adds that being raised by a single parent for 12 years made him grow up fast. He recalls that, when he was 13 years old, he sometimes wouldn't ask for an allowance. He'd simply buy comics, then sell them at a higher price to his classmates. From his earnings, he bought rubber shoes. He was also oftentimes a surrogate father to his younger brother.

Growing up with his mom was "great." He explains: "She's like my *Ate*, but she's a responsible parent, too. She has a great sense of humor. When we go out, sometimes they think she's my girlfriend because I'm so *lambing*."

The school of hard knocks also taught him to sacrifice. "I'd save up money to buy my mom a nice birthday gift, but instead she'd just want cash. Until now, it's still cash!" he says, laughing.

Talent scout

As a student at OB Montessori, he yearned for a pair of Levi's, but couldn't afford them—so he bought a fake pair. "My classmates teased me for that," he says. But one day a talent scout came to his school, and

CARLOS/ P. E4

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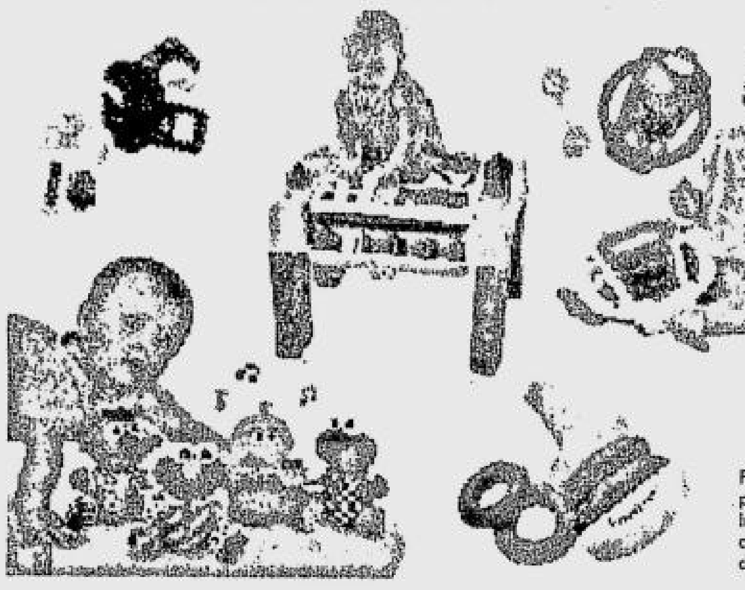

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Julius and Christine, TV's wholesome hosts

By Remy M. Umerez

HE comes from Batangas City. She hails from Abra. Both reside in Quezon City.

He is 33 years old and five years younger than Christine. Both are in love.

He is more into news, while Christine is show biz-oriented. Both are UP graduates in Communication Arts.

He was trained by Noli de Castro. A strong influence on Tintin's career is Korina Sanchez.

Late-morning show

For five years, TV's most wholesome pair, Julius Babao and Christine "Tintin" Bersola, hosted the morning show "Alas Singko Y Medya" until management transferred them to the late-morning program, "Talk TV," which they co-host with Ryan Agoncillo and Janet McBride. Q & A:

What a relief it must be not to wake up so early in the morning. Is there something you miss about "Alas Singko Y Medya"?

Julius: Definitely, not rising as early as three in the morning. I miss the news that I delivered. I also miss our travels.

Tintin: I miss having breakfast with the production staff.

How do you prepare for your new show?

Julius: The research material is given to us a day before and from that I get ideas about the questions to ask, aside from the guide questions on the cue cards.

Relaxed

Tintin: I clear up things with the writer while my face is being made up. Before the show begins, I talk to the guests to make them feel at home. It is important that they are relaxed when the show starts.

Are you one big, happy family?

Julius: Yes, we are one normal family.

Tintin: No show biz intrigues whatsoever. We try to be professional. When we clash, it is always over ideas.

What is the best and most uncomplimentary feedback you got from the show?

Julius: One female writer wrote that I don't seem to fit into the show and she would rather see my talent be put to use in another program. The fact that she recognized my talent is already a compliment.

Tintin: That I talk too fast is the worst criticism I've received.

How do you improve your hosting skills?

Julius: I watch talk shows abroad, but not necessarily to ape the hosts. We cater to a different market here and in the case of "Talk TV," we are targeting the students.

Tintin: I have taped all our episodes since Day One. I review them to find out the booboos I have committed.

Has there been a major blunder so far?

Julius: Thank God, *wala pa namang nangyayaring ganyan sa akin*.

Tintin: Not on my part, but more on the technical side, like when something goes wrong with the microphone.

Are you a vain person?

Julius: I am a serious person, not a vain one. The grooming is part of the job and to please our sponsors.

Format

Tintin: I dress up according to the format of the show. "Talk TV" is light, so informal or casual attires are preferred. With my other show at SkyCable (Cinema One) they want me to be glamorous *dahil* show biz *ang* topic. I have to look good because it is required, but I don't spend hours beautifying myself. Nor would you see me wearing ultra-glamorous clothes off-camera.

Who are your role models in TV hosting?

Julius: David Letterman, Larry King and Edu Manzano.

Tintin: Oprah, Korina and Martin Nievera.

Are hosts supposed to make personal comments?

Julius: Their job primarily is to host or interview. I don't make personal comments because I always think more as a newscaster.

Tintin: Whenever I react to an item I read, they think it came from me. Truth is, I am just reading whatever is written on the teleprompter. This is specially true with my hosting for Cinema One. Most talk show hosts I've talked to agree they should not offer any comments.

BERSOLA AND BABAO. For five years, they hosted the early-morning show "Alas Singko Y Medya," until management transferred them to the late-morning program, "Talk TV."

Who are your dream subjects for an interview?

Julius: Dolphy is an interesting subject. Panfilo Lacson is another.

Tintin: No one has succeeded in interviewing Fernando Poe Jr. in a talk show, and that remains my biggest dream.

After creating a name for yourselves on "Alas Singko Y Medya," don't you consider "Talk TV" as some sort of a demotion? How comfortable are you with the show?

Julius: I look at it as a challenge, an opportunity to show the audience a different side of me. As I've said, my early training is that of a newscaster. Then suddenly, I am talking to movie stars and prying into their lives. At the start, *nakakapanibago* and I felt awkward. Thanks to Tintin, I am getting the hang of it.

Comfortable

Tintin: It never entered my mind to think of it as a demotion. I enjoy it and I feel comfortable with the format.

How do you feel that you have a rival show on another network?

Julius: I cannot comment on that because I haven't seen the show yet. But, as the saying goes, the more the merrier!

Tintin: I was told that we have a different format. *Mas* "feel at home" *daw ang* format *nung* "Sis." Do you know that Gelli rushed to the aid of a victim who needed a blood donation when we were still with "Alas Singko Y Medya"?

Is there a particular show you aspire to be part of?

Julius: I wouldn't mind again being a part of "TV Patrol." A "Mel and Jay" type of show would inspire me. That was the original concept for "Talk TV."

Tintin: I trust management on the kind of show they put me in. My growth depends on their decisions. Hosting Cinema One is to my liking because my early training was with show biz happenings, with Cristy Fermin and Butch Francisco on "Show Biz Lingo."

Carlos . . .

(From page E3)

the "pretty boy" was tapped to be Levi's image model. "I wore the first pair of original Levi's in the Philippines!" he exclaims.

Although his classmates drove BMWs (given to them by their parents), Carlos drove a Nissan. The difference was, he paid for it himself. "I did 20 commercials in 10 months," he recalls.

He pursued Psychology at De La Salle University because he felt it would help him understand people at work. He has temporarily stopped school (he's in third year college) but plans to finish his education when time permits.

Although Carlos started as an entertainer when he was 16, it was only when he started rapping that his career took off. "I used to rap informally, and people would say, 'Go on, pretty boy.' Then for my birthday on 'ASAP' they decided that instead of singing, I should rap." That led to better things.

Four movies

Now, after four movies, a second record on the way, two TV shows, innumerable product endorsements and several stage shows, he's got money to spare. "I give my brothers whatever they want, but I don't spoil them," he says. "I want my brothers to learn not to take things for granted, but sometimes they make me *bola*."

He has also invested in properties in Tagaytay and Palawan for his family, and dreams of building a Tagaytay resort which could double as a resthouse for his parents. Last year, Carlos also treated his parents to a vacation in the States.

He has had four girlfriends, but for now, he says his focus is on work. Ten years from now, he sees himself still in show biz, whether as an actor or director, or running his own advertising agency. He adds that he plans to settle down only when he's 35.

Did he ever feel like he missed out on his childhood? Carlos says no, because he went through the things a child goes through—only earlier. He had his first girlfriend when he was 12, and the relationship lasted for four years (she broke his heart, he says). He also partied at night and played basketball when he was very young.

AGASSI. Takes being a role model seriously.

Working

"By the time I was 16, I was already working," Carlos says. "While other kids were partying, going out with their *barkada*, I was doing commercials, shows. But I don't mind. I love entertaining—it's more fun than work."

He is thrilled when the people he idolized, like Gary Valenciano and Randy Santiago, say they like his work. He is delighted that he will be doing a record with Andrew E, another idol.

He is also pleased because his image is wholesome. "Even when I did Hanford, it still looked clean," he says. He's not interested in going bold at this stage, but if ever, he'd like it to be similar to a comic scene that Mel Gibson did in a movie, when he ran outside in his boxers, wielding a gun.

Carlos takes being a role model seriously—whether it's for his younger brothers, or for kids in general. What would he like to tell young people today? "To value school. Otherwise, you may have regrets later. You can lose everything, but you'll always keep what you learned. Do your best, and God will do the rest. And most of all, stay away from drugs!"

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Learning how to love Vanessa-Mae's 'irreverent' music

By Ricky T. Gallardo

IF YOU think being an artist in the pop category is demanding, then falling under the classical genre must be even more exacting. Classically-trained musicians are faithful to tradition, theories and schools of music disciplines.

Substance

To most of them, the only way to express their art is to fully comprehend and balance the highest form and substance of their music. Moreover, these artists move heaven and earth to genuinely embrace and "feel" the soul of nuance by constantly trying to go to a level higher than their touted masters.

So, who can blame die-hard traditionalists for their initial outrage over violinist Vanessa-Mae's phenomenal success? Audaciously arranging virtuoso showpieces by the likes of Paganini, Wieniawski and Sarasate in an updated, almost danceable form, she first burst onto the scene in 1995 with "Storm."

Music lovers were instantly polarized. Puritans who had compared her to Mozart and Mendelssohn when she was still the toast of true-blue classical albums suddenly denounced her "irreverence."

Those from the mainstream who embraced her new pop-classical fusion, however, declared Vanessa-Mae "a certified smash hit."

Vanessa-Mae was more than a breath of fresh air in the seemingly polluted music world which has succumbed to marketing hype and mediocrity.

Intentions

In a recent interview, the very Asian classical-pop artist explains her intentions: "I wanted to get serious music across to a wider audience, to do for the violin what the legendary Jimi Hendrix did for the guitar.

"And if that means going a bit over the top, dressing like a typical teenager rather than always being in a penguin suit, and filming classical music like a pop (music) video, then I was more than willing to give it a try."

This flair for treading the path less travelled continues with the release of her new album, "*subject to change" under EMI Music. In this must-have 12-track compilation, the charming violin prodigy goes beyond our expectations. Not only did she shun working with renowned classical producers and session players (as in her past albums), but she also collaborated with cutting-edge dance producers like JS16 and Airscape.

The result is a stunning gem that blurs the line between classical and pop. Also, Vanessa-Mae's latest album is a showcase for her wonderful voice to soar and resonate.

In "*subject to change," Vanessa-Mae takes hold of the mic in tracks such as the lead single "White Bird," which was written by David La Flamme, and "Love Is Only A Game" co-authored by Vanessa-Mae and legendary song producer The Youth.

Second single

She even gave a diction-perfect sampling of French in the "Jamais" cut, which thrilled us no end. Though we've read a few critics who predictably thumbed their noses at Vanessa-Mae's new output, public reaction indicates otherwise. Her second single "Destiny" recently topped the MP3.com over-all Top 40 (putting one over Destiny's Child, who stalled at No. 2) as well as on the site's Classical Charts.

Still, it is in her instrumental cuts where Vanessa-Mae's ingenuity truly shines. In "Laughing Buddha," Vanessa-Mae incorporated samples of "The Offerings For General Protectors," an age-old chant by the monks of the Dip Tse Chock Ling Monastery.

"Love Is The Only Game," meanwhile, contain traces of "Pupy Y Su Charanga" by Felix Lagaretta, infused with a melange of contemporary sounds amidst classical disciplines.

With Vanessa-Mae's bold, fresh and successful approach in her new opus, none-believers' opinion of the classically-trained violinist can be easily subject to change—without much prodding!

VANESSA-MAE wanted to get serious music across to a wider audience.

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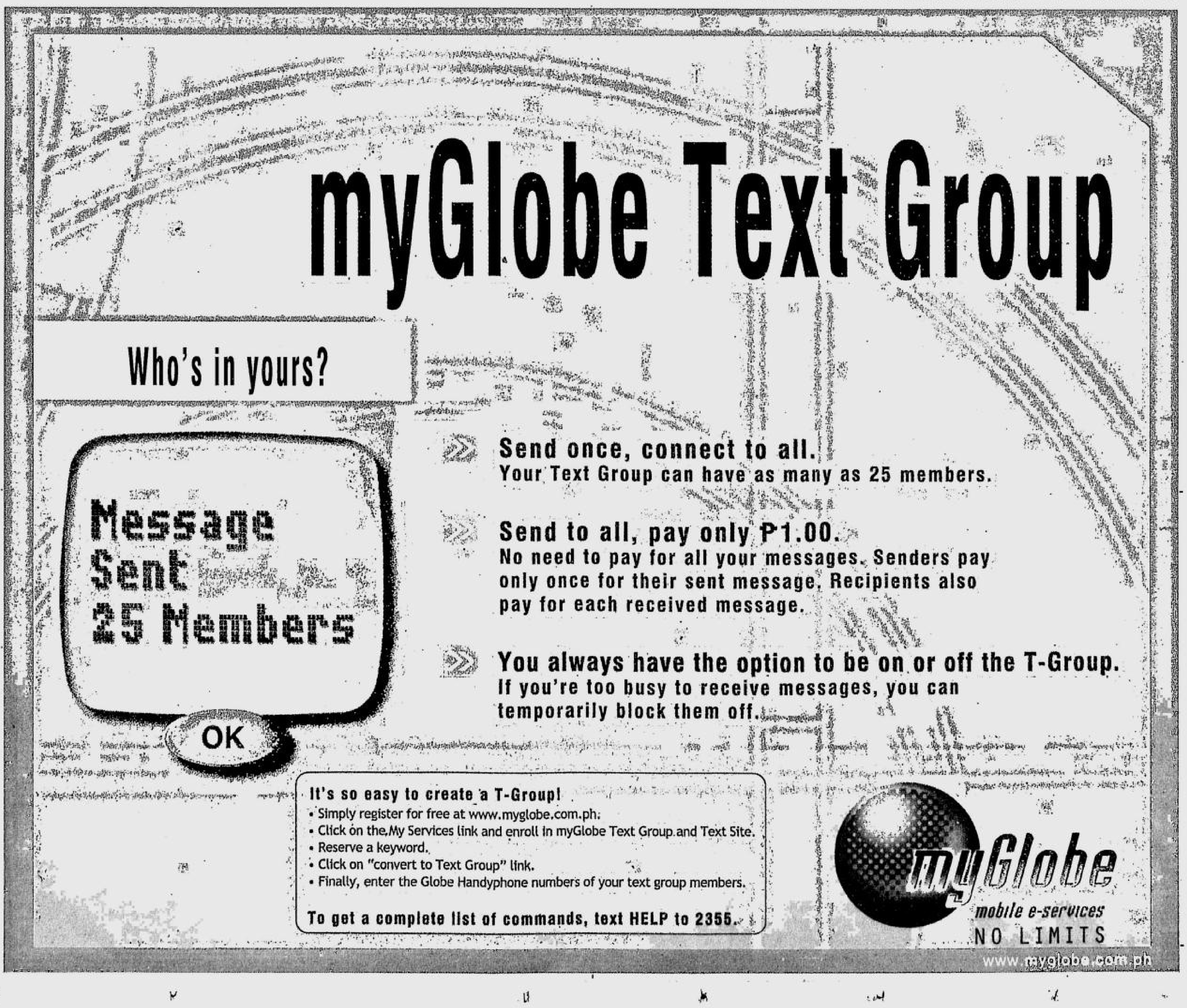

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Live dance shows are a lot better than what we see on TV

By Jocelyn Valle

AT THE height of the "Live Show" brouhaha early this year, Ballet Philippines' (BP) artistic director Denisa Reyes was tempted to call the curtain raiser for the country's premier dance company's 32nd season "Toro."

Ingredients

"But we settled with the tamer title 'Live, Hot and Blue,'" says Denisa, adding, though, that it still had the ingredients of a box-office hit. We watched the three-piece dance presentation on Aug. 10 and we agree with her.

The first, Alvin Ailey's "Witness," is contemplative and moody. The second, William Morgan's "Classical Symphony," is light and frisky. The finale, Alice Reyes' "Carmen," is melodramatic and sexy.

And the performers were not only exceptional dancers, they were good actors as well. Elizabeth Roxas, the soloist in "Witness" and the lead in "Carmen," graciously shared what she's learned from her training and professional experience abroad, particularly as principal dancer of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York. Her expressive face matches the beauty of her movements.

Spanish guest artist Raul Moreno Pradana, whose stint with BP has been facilitated by the Instituto Cervantes, makes an ideal leading man, towering and passionate.

Verve

BP's young dancers have the verve and charm of Britney, Christina and the members of boy groups. MTV fanatics who are clueless about ballet can easily identify with them.

These are not incidental references to pop culture. "We should not be highbrow," Denisa insists. "We don't call it ballet anymore. It's just dance."

BP wants to widen its audience base, that's why it develops more appealing productions. In October, for instance, they'll present a collection of new works by contemporary choreographers revolving around the Filipinos' penchant for shoes.

Edna Vida's balletic version of "Peter Pan" will delight both kids and adults in December. Finally, in February next year, BP will reconnect with its Asian roots as it collaborates with Japanese and Indonesia artists for "Neo-Filipino: Barangay Asia."

Dance was also the choice of British Council-Philippines in presenting the contemporary face of the United Kingdom. "We're young and dynamic with a rich history," enthuses the Council's director, Rodney Bell.

Thus, last July, at the AFP Theatre in a show titled "When A Minus Becomes A Plus," Filipinos met dancers Pedro Machado, Jurg Koch, Andrew McLay, Suzanne Cowan, Welly O'Brien, Kate Marsh and Stine Nilson, who, together with artistic director Celeste Dandeker, comprise the international touring company CandoCo (pronounced "can-doo-co").

Disabled dancers

Unlike Ballet Philippines, CandoCo features disabled dancers alongside able-bodied ones. On stage, though, it doesn't matter who's in a wheelchair or who lacks a leg or a hand.

All seven performers work together to stage dance pieces that are thought provoking ("I hastened through my Death Scene to catch your last Act") and cheeky ("Sunbyrne").

"The main mission is to be a dance company where everyone is unique," Celeste remarks of CandoCo, which was founded in 1991 at a weekly dance workshop held in north London with Adam Benjamin and Dandeker herself.

"It is also very empowering for the disabled," adds the former dancer who's likewise wheelchair-bound. "I think you can promote equality through the arts. I don't say we're actively political. We're not a group of protesters, we're here for the arts and to do good work."

There are a few companies like CandoCo in America, Europe and Australia, and Celeste is confident that the Philippines can put up one, too. "What you need is the space to experiment and also the support of the people. But it's also a choice," she points out.

Sidewalks

It may take some time, though. The country, sadly, is not handicapped-friendly. Ramps on our sidewalks are ill constructed. Do we have handicap spots in our carparks?

We've been told that people in a Malate bar gawked at the CandoCo dancers when they went dancing two nights before the show. Worse, the bar didn't have a restroom for the disabled!

British Council-Philippines' Susan Arcega initially found it hard looking for partners to put on "When A Plus Becomes A Minus" and the workshops that would involve the disabled, the sensory impaired and some dance teachers.

Good thing, she discovered organizations like Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, Dance Association of the Philippines, International Children's Advocate, Inc., the Subic Bay Arts Centre and the MCO Foundation.

With the workshoppers' newfound knowledge in mixing the able-bodied and the disabled in performances, we may find more reasons to go to live dance shows again. They are a lot better than what we see on TV!

SCENES from "I hastened from my Death Scene to catch your Last Act."

Shimoli writes personal songs

THERE'S a new laid-back single currently hot on the airwaves today and its none other than the song "Damned" by Swedish pop star Shimoli, from her self-titled album under EMI Music.

Good omen

Shimoli is Swedish but her name—like her father's—is African. It means "to flourish." She hopes it's a good omen.

Shimoli has always loved music. She began playing the flute, guitar and violin when she was 7. At 15 she took vocal classes and began singing in bands as a hobby. But Shimoli wanted to be a lawyer. Or so she thought.

"I studied law at Stockholm University and was there for years before I realized it wasn't my thing. I suddenly thought 'am I really going to do this for the rest of my life?'"

Shimoli dropped out of law school when she was 23 ("I don't even need to tell you what my mother thought of that decision!") and decided to pursue her music. She wanted to meet other people involved in music and, unconventional from the start, decided to sing R&B covers in a tunnel leading to Stockholm Central Station. Not busking, just trying to get noticed. And, strange as it sounds, it worked.

Stranger

A stranger invited her to his studio to try and write songs with him. "Then he disappeared!" laughs Shimoli, "I tried to get hold of him so hard, sometimes calling him twice a day, I practically stalked him!" Finally, he called her back and they talked for over an hour.

Marcus and Shimoli recorded two songs together. Shimoli signed to EMI.

Shimoli describes her music as "pop with soul. There are R&B influences but also acoustic guitars. It's not beat based, it's all about melodies." Marcus writes the music, although Shimoli contributes some melodies. The lyrics are hers.

"Most of the words are very personal, about my life experiences, although some of them are stolen from friends or just pure fantasy. It's quite therapeutic to write about the bad situations I've been in, to look back on things now that I don't feel that way any more.

"I can see everything so much more clearly now, I live a normal, happy life and the album makes me realize how far I've come since I wrote songs about bad relationships and sad times."

The album is an uplifting journey through music genres, seamlessly blended together. It's probably the most accomplished debut you'll hear this year—original, confident and beautiful. It's music to fall in love to, music to cure a broken heart, music to relax you, music to excite you.

It's bittersweet, worldly, positive and haunting. This album will mean something different to everyone but one thing's for sure—Shimoli will make a big impression on you and you'll play her album again and again.

Career single

Her carrier single "Damned" is currently hot on local FM radio stations' playlists.

"'Damned' is a song about grieving. It's all about all the ugly feelings a person is allowed to have, like hate and anger, bitterness and resignation. I wrote it because I had experienced something similar."

"It's about someone who builds his castle on the sand, on a very unstable ground—hurting himself and others consciously with everything he does. It's also about me questioning myself and now I ended up in the situation and once it was over why I cared at all. Especially since I know that the past only has the power over a human being if you let it rule what you do in the present.

"My grandfather used to tell me 'This is the first day of the rest of your life, you know.' It means that everyday you have the opportunity to make a choice and what has happened in the past doesn't define who you are."

SHIMOLI. She describes her music as "pop with soul."

'Anime on Parade' goes to Shangri-La Plaza

THE country's first "Nihon Eiga Sai 2001: Anime on Parade," after its special screenings at the UP Film Center and the Cultural Center of the Philippines, goes to Shangri-La Plaza Mall at the Cinema 2. The festival is ongoing till Sept. 4

Four decades

Anime fans will love the festival's mall line-up that will showcase four decades of Japanese full-length animation greats ranging from Taiji Yabushita's "The White Snake" (1958), the first Japanese full-length colored animation film which won the Grand Prix in the Venice Film Festival, to Katsuhiro Otomo's "Akira" 91988), hailed as one of Japan's most expensive animation films.

("Akira" cost a billion yen to produce its 2,212 shots, 160,000 cells and 327 colors employing hundreds of animators, inkers, colorists and other film technicians).

Exclusive to Shangri-La Plaza is the screening of the award-winning "Tombstone for Fireflies" (Sept. 2 at 8:30 p.m.). Produced in 1988, it tells the story (through flashbacks) of two children (14 year-old boy Seita and his 4-year-old sister, Setsuko) from Kobe made orphans by the Second World War.

It portrays their struggle to survive in a society that has broken down under the horrors of war, a struggle doomed to fail in the end. Directed by Isao Takahata who is associated with the famous Ghibli Studio (source of the great Japanese animation), the film is based on a semi-autobiographical novel by Ariyuki Nosaka who was a young lad at the time of the firebombs, whose sister did die of hunger and whose life has been shadowed by guilt.

Top awards

"Tombstone..." received two top awards at the 1994 Chicago International Children's Film festival. It garnered first prize in Rights of the Child category and first place in Best Animated Feature Film category.

Independent filmmaker and co-editor of Senses of Cinema Bill Mousoulis says: "Tombstone for Fireflies is a masterpiece not only because of its richness of rendering but also because of its overall form. The scriptwriting is brilliant... it's a film about death, but the film itself resonates with life."

Film reviewer Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun Times also commended the film. "It is a powerful dramatic film that happens to be animated... It is the most profoundly human animated film I've ever seen."

Nihon Eiga Sai 2001: Anime on Parade at the Shangri-La Plaza is presented jointly with the Japan Foundation Manila Office in cooperation with Tokyo Tokyo and AV Driver.

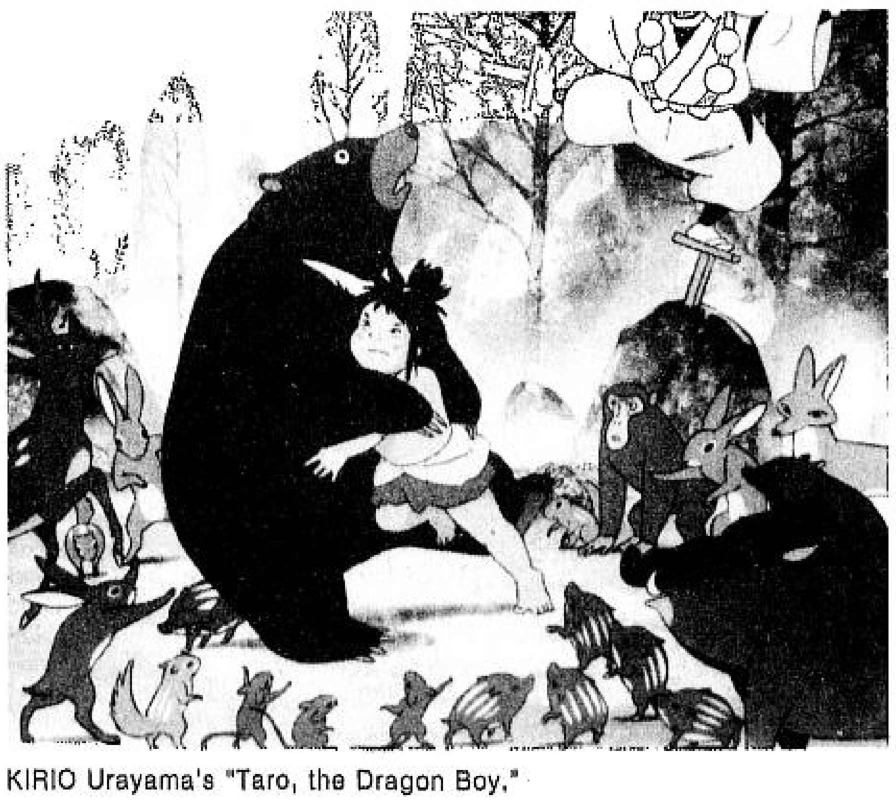
Other equally-interesting films to be featured are "The White Snake" (1958), "The Orphan brother" (1961) and "Madcap Island" (1967) by Taiji Yabushita (famous for his Adventures of Little Samurai); "Return of Pero (1972) by Tomoharu Katsumata; "Taro, the Dragon Boy" (1979) by Kirio Urayama; "Barefoot Gen 2" (1986) and "Grimm's Fairy Tales" (1987) by Toshio Hirata; and Akira (1988) by Katsuhiro Otomo.

Japanese art and culture

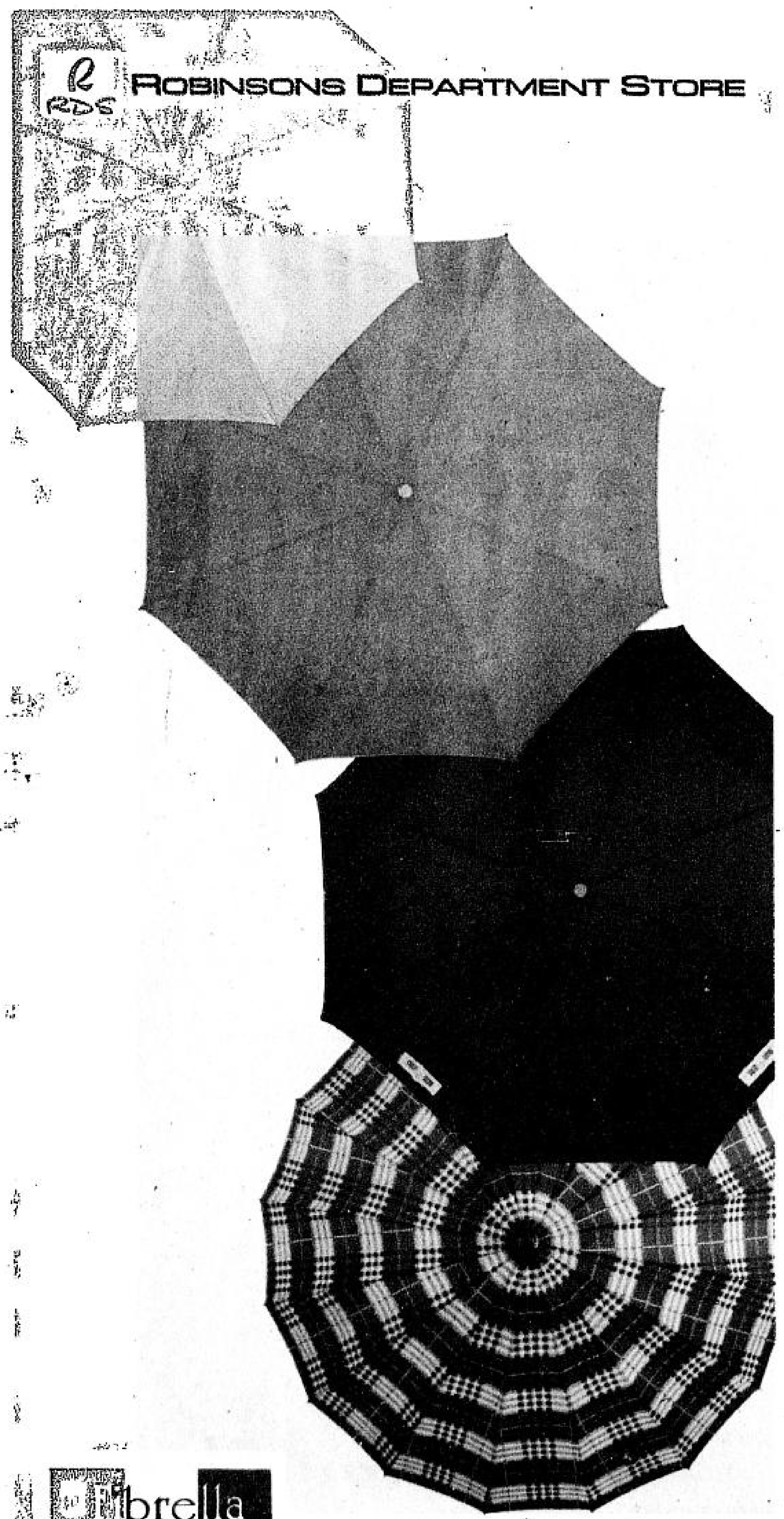
Back-to-back with the filmfest, in line with Shangri-La Plaza Mall's ongoing art and culture advocacy, is a weekend treat for kids where they can enjoy and learn more about Japanese art and culture at the mall.

On Sept. 1 and 2, prior to the first screening, there will be storytelling sessions of well-loved Japanese tales by the Japan Foundation Storytellers at the Cinema 2 lobby; Origami session for kids ages 7 to 15 with Japanese Origami teachers on Level 6 (near Circa shop) and face painting session for children 3 to 10 years old with face painter Ed Ordoño on Level 5 (Ripley's Museum Exit). Registration is set on Sept. 1 and 2 at 11 a.m., first come-first served, limited slots only. For details call 633-7851 loc. 107.

Admission to the anime filmfest is free. Screening hours are 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. For film schedules call 633-7851 loc. 106. All films have English subtitles.



KIRIO Urayama's "Taro, the Dragon Boy."



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Canto Boys shine in debut album

By Pocholo Concepcion

WHO are the Canto Boys and what are they up to?

The story goes that the brothers Joseph and Christopher Astor traveled from Angeles City, Pampanga, to try their luck as pop singers, prompted by a newspaper ad of Manila Genesis—a management outfit handling the likes of Gary Valenciano, among dozens of other big names in the scene.

Siblings

When the Astor siblings bested some 120 others aspiring to become full-fledged recording artists, this prompted Manila Genesis to sign them to a management contract.

An album deal with MCA Universal introduces them as the Canto Boys—not as a pun on the street term for bums, but rather as a signifier for the Spanish word "cantar" which simply means to sing.

If to sing is what the Canto Boys have always longed for, the dream has initially been realized by their debut effort.

The CD has 10 tracks, composed mostly of songs written by freelance tunesmiths (Gerard Tamondong, Gilbert Circulado, Christopher Melecio, Jun Hermano, Manny Aquino, Edwin Morollano). A couple of cuts are covers of past local pop hits (like Ogie Alcasid's "Nandito Ako").

The hype surrounding the Canto Boys is being focused on the duo's singing style, rhythm and blues. This is the same R & B that's become a buzzword on the club and concert circuit since the late '90s. Some of its most recent poster boys include Side A and South Border.

Singing style

The Pinoy R & B sound has been around since the '60s and '70s. In the '80s, Gary Valenciano was one of the local pop stars who successfully mined R & B as a singing style.

JOSEPH and Christopher Astor beat 120 other auditionees to clinch a management contract with Genesis.

No coincidence then, that what we hear on the Canto Boys album is an apparent homage to Gary V. Most of the songs sound as if Gary was around to lend his vocal prowess, although that never happened.

The best way to appreciate the songs is to focus on the manner by which the hooks could catch you unaware that your head is already bobbing along to the beat and lyric refrain.

It's not so much the content of the lyrics, but the duo's guts that convince you that the Canto Boys would make good R & B singers—at least in the Philippines.

The lesson here is to come up with better-written songs than the ones in the album, majority of which are tired clichés, undying pronouncements of juvenile romance. A few cuts, however, are okay, like "Tonight and Forever," which stands out for its earnestly expressed sentiments.

Let's see if the Canto Boys can write their own stuff—if not ask their handlers to commission the best songwriters—in future albums.

Angela Velez now keeps her clothes on

By Edmund L. Sicam

ANGELA Velez made a name for herself in the bold movie genre so it comes as a surprise that in her latest move, "Parehas Ang Laban," she has no scorching love scenes and no breast exposure. She doesn't even have a kissing scene with lead star Ian Veneracion, who's married to Daisy Reyes in this action movie.

Instead, Angela joins Ian in the movie's many fight scenes and displays her winning form in martial arts. She plays a police captain, Ian's superior, who goes after a rogue cop played by John Regala.

Provocative encounters

Angela's last bold movie was "Shame," where she played the girlfriend of real-life partner John Apacible. The lead star was Ina Raymundo, who played John's battered wife. While Ina had her share of nude scenes, Angela wasn't far behind with her own provocative encounters with John.

Angela's new image began to emerge after she was signed up by ABS-CBN's Talent Center and she became a regular in "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan," "Home Along Da Riles," "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan" and "G-mik." Since she couldn't possibly bare as much skin on TV as she has done on the big screen, Angela has slowly shed her bold-star persona. It was ABS-CBN executive Cory Vidanes who recommended her to the Talent Center people after Angela guested on "ASAP."

The actress is happier with this new development. So is her family, says Angela. She continues to get more assignments from the Star network and has been able to enjoy the fruits of her labor. One of her prized purchases was an Adventure van that allowed her to attend to her many appearances.

Unfortunately, that prized possession was stolen and she hasn't recovered her vehicle. Fortunately, the van was insured but it's going to take several months to process the papers.

Angela has been able to recover from that sad experience and prefers to focus more on her many acting projects. She's also busy with commercial endorsements. She has just finished being the spokesperson for Trust Condoms and will soon ride the White Castle horse in a future spot and appear in a cigarette commercial for Fortune Tobacco.

'Sin' products

We teased her about being identified with "sin" products. It's hard to get away from her bold image, she sighs. At least, she no longer does "hardcore" nudity.

The actress actually finished a college degree in Electrical Engineering from the National University in 1998. She was influenced by an uncle who is an architect. She has a sister who took up architecture but, like her, she went into another field.

Angela was unable to take the board exams because she was bitten by the acting bug. However, she says she is quite capable of practicing what she took up in college.

Angela Velez is part Chinese and her real name is Jeanne Ong. She was baptized Angela by a director while her first manager named her Velez after another sexy actress, Vivian Velez.

Although she has appeared in several comedies like "Juan and Ted" for Viva Films, she prefers to do action movies where she can show off her knowledge of the martial arts, something she learned from her father, Johnny Ong, a karate instructor.

That training has paid off because Angela has been able to maintain her whistle-bait figure. So, although she has stopped doing bold movies, she still does "wholesome but sexy roles."

VELEZ. Displays her winning form in martial arts, for a change.

Big stars perform in several nationwide promotional shows

MONTAGE

ESKINOL launches a new product, Dermapeal, an exfoliating astringent, through nationwide promotional shows today. The areas covered and the participating stars are, as follows:

Manila (Robinsons Galleria)—Judy Ann Santos, Piolo Pascual and Sherilyn Reyes.

Dagupan City (CSI Mall)—Jessa Zaragoza, Wowie de Guzman and Ruby Rodriguez.

Cebu (Gaisano Country Mall)—Carol Banawa, KC Montero, Candy Pangilinan and the DTM Dancers.

Davao (J S Gaisano Mall)—Roselle Nava, Carlos Agassi and Smokey Manaloto.

All shows start at 4 p.m.

Beauty pageant

Wellcom Supermarket, a major telecommunications store, announces its search for Miss Global Philippines 2201 who will represent the country in the 2002 Miss Global Queen Competition in Quebec, Canada. P 1 million awaits the winner of the local pageant.

Preliminary screenings for the contest will be held today and tomorrow at Limits Disco. Applicants should be at least 5'5" and between 18 and 21 years old by Oct. 27. Forty beauties chosen from the preliminary screening will qualify for the final screening on Sept. 15. From the final screening, 20 finalists will be picked to compete in the finals on Oct. 28 at the AFP Theater.

Application forms are available at all Wellcom Telecom Supermarket outlets. Call 725-8251.

'Hirayamanawari'

A special child figures in a hostage-taking incident tomorrow Sept. 2 on "Hirayamanawari" at 9 a.m. on ABS-CBN. Nine-year-old Nelzo (Christian Galindo) is starting to resent caring for his older brother Joel (Sammy de Leon) who has Down Syndrome. When a fugitive takes hostage a class of special children, Joel gets an opportunity to show that he can be an older brother to Nelzo.

The episode "Yakap" also stars Troy Martino, Raul Morit and Lovely Rivero.

Spanish film treasures at UP

Oscar nominee "El Abuelo" (The Grandfather) by Spanish film director Jose Luis Garci opens the Gala Screenings of three Spanish film treasures on Sept. 5 and 6 at the UP Film Center. Spanish ambassador Don Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja is the guest of honor with Don Javier Galvan, Director of the Instituto Cervantes de Manila assisting in the traditional tree planting ritual.

"El Abuelo" will be screened at 7 p.m. on Sept. 5. On Sept. 6 "A Proposito de Buñuel" (The Subject of Buñuel) will be shown at 5 p.m. and "Alas de Mariposa" (Butterfly Wings) will be screened at 8 p.m. Call 926-3640.

NGT's Emmy nominations

National Geographic Television has been nominated for 13 Emmys in this year's News and Documentary Emmy Awards. NGT's magazine series "National Geographic Explorer" received nine nominations.

"The National Geographic Specials" airing on PBS received two nominations while "The Urban Elephant," a co-production of NGT and Thirteen/WNET for the "Nature" series on PBS, got two nominations. The awards will be presented on Sept. 5 in New York.

'Party in the Park'

Join an all-star-cast of performers in "Party in the Park for the Princess Trust" on Star World on Sept. 11 at 8 p.m., with replays on Sept. 12 at 2:30 a.m. This summer extravaganza in London's Hyde Park attracts 100,000 people annually. The concert kicks off with an energetic performance from Ricky Martin, followed by the soulful performance of former Boyzone leader Ronan Keating.

The event is an eclectic sampling of today's musical successes. Destiny's Child wants the crowd to "Say My Name" and ex-Spice Girls Geri Haliwell and Emma Bunton wow the crowd with their latest solo efforts. UK pop talents A1, David Gray and Craig David are joined by international superstars Nelly Furtado, Wheatus and Sisqo.

Fashion boutique opens

Show biz personalities Paolo Bediones, Janice de Belen, Gelli de Belen and hubby Ariel Rivera, Miriam Quiambao, Hans Montenegro, Ogie Alcasid, F and H girl Joey Mead and Ayala Land AVP Rowena Manhit-Tomeldan were among the special guests at the launch of the fashion boutique Folded and Hung at Glorietta 2 in Ayala Center, Makati. They helped in stripping the pink paper, an innovative way of unveiling the new store

SANTOS. Performs at Robinsons Galleria.

'Erin Brockovich' on HBO

"Erin Brockovich," an inspiring story of a how a woman triumphs against overwhelming odds, airs on HBO on Sept. 8 at 9 p.m. The movie stars Julia Roberts, who won this year's Oscar for Best Actress for his portrayal of the tile character. Also starring as her boss is Albert Finney who was nominated for Best Supporting Actor in this picture.

Dingdong's bar tour

Dingdong Avanzado returns to the concert scene with a bar tour series "Dingdong: Up Close" that kicks off on Sept. 15 at Nth Degree.

This is Dingdong's first concert after his three-year stint as Quezon City councilor. The show features production numbers that highlight the music that the artist is known for – light, easy listening and romantic tunes.

Other shows will be mounted at the Hard Rock Cafe on Sept. 18, O Two Bistro Bar N' Grill on Sept. 21, Friends on Sept. 27, Virgin Cafe on Oct. 2, Ratsky's on Oct. 9 and Captain's Bar on Oct. 16.

'The Green Mile' on Sept. 9

Star Movies will air "The Green Mile" on Sept. 9 at 9 p.m. Set in a Southern prison in 1935, the story revolves around Paul Edgecomb, a prison guard, played by Tom Hanks, who develops an unusual relationship with an inmate who possesses a magical gift. *(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)*

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New Line Cinema launches new DVD brand with '13 Days'

COSTNER. Played JFK's political adviser in "13 Days."

BY BOB TOURTELLOTTE

LOS ANGELES—New Line Cinema, the specialty movie wing of AOL Time Warner Inc., will launch a new brand of DVDs in yet another move by a major studio spotlighting the growing importance of DVDs.

Inner workings

A DVD version of Kevin Costner's acclaimed movie "13 Days," which looks at the inner workings of the Kennedy White House during the Cuban Missile Crisis, will hit retail shelves on Tuesday sporting the "Infinifilm" brand name from New Line.

The "Infinifilm" series is meant to take moviegoers "beyond the movie" with added, factual information about what was really happening at the time of the missile crisis.

The DVD of "13 Days" contains a 48-minute documentary called "The Roots of the Cuban Missile Crisis" and brief biographies of the historical figures involved in the event such as President John F. Kennedy, his brother Robert, and Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

It also includes a 10-minute feature that looks at the challenge in creating movies like "13 Days," which was a fictional account of a true event.

Matt Lasorsa, senior vice president of marketing for New Line Home Entertainment, told Reuters that movies such as "13 Days" stir people's curiosity, but moviegoers rarely get a chance to follow up with research into the events.

Package

"(People) tend not to have the time to do that, so we tried to put it all in a package consumers can explore," he said.

In the movie, Costner portrayed Kennedy friend and political adviser Ken O'Donnell. Bruce Greenwood played John Kennedy, and Steven Culp portrayed Robert Kennedy.

The public speeches surrounding the crisis, in which the Russians attempted to establish a base for nuclear missiles in Cuba, were well-documented, but the movie explores what the Kennedys might have said to each other behind closed doors.

The movie debuted around the country in January to generally positive reviews, but a lackluster box office.

But because of its historical significance, it made perfect fodder for the "Infinifilm" series of DVDs, Lasorsa said.

New Line also plans an "Infinifilm" DVD of the recent "Blow," which detailed the real life, rise-and-fall of a cocaine dealer and of the upcoming martial arts comedy, "Rush Hour 2." Pricing for the "Infinifilm" DVDs is close to other comparable DVDs with a suggested retail price of $26.98.

DVDs got their start back in 1997, and since then New Line has been a leader in providing new and innovating features.

In 1997, New Line issued its first "platinum" series DVDs with scenes that didn't make the movie and/or interviews with stars and directors. The moviemaker also began offering "Easter Eggs," hidden features that viewers can only find by unlocking a secret code from clues within the DVD.

Storage space

DVDs have been increasingly successful as a consumer product, in part, because the amount of storage space on the discs allow for all the extra features along with the movie.

"In general, the added features have proved to be hugely popular with consumers," said Tom Adams, president of entertainment research firm, Adams Media Research.

Several industry sources said establishing a recognizable "brand" of DVDs could be difficult, however, because consumers are only now adopting DVDs as a mass market product.

Adams said DVD fans could adopt a DVD "brand" if the features "are for real and not just window dressing."

New Line is not alone in looking to establish a brand identity for its DVDs.

The Walt Disney Co. this fall will launch a "Platinum" line of its classic animated hits on DVD this October when it ships a new "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" to retailers. Among other features on "Snow White" will be a song from Barbra Streisand. *Reuters*

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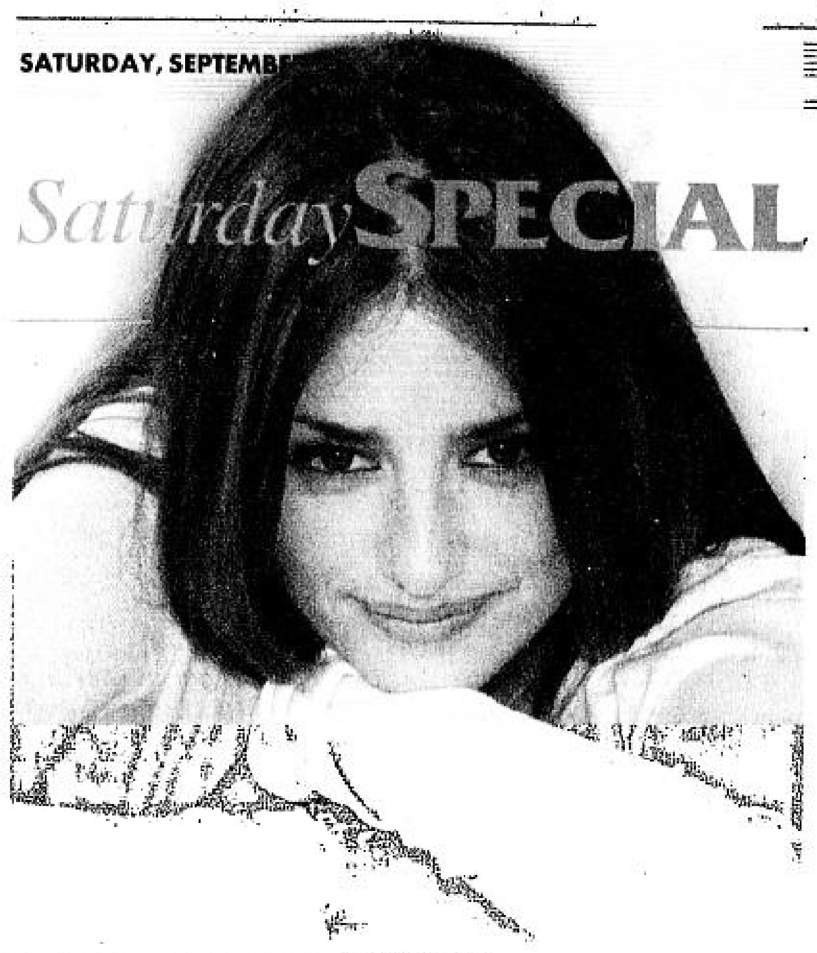
- Purchase a Colgate Navigator Toothbrush and get a free 40g Fresh Confidence Toothpaste.
- 10 percent off on Rejoice Complete 200 ml.
- Buy 2, get 1 free Stargazer nail polish and 1.5 percent off on all regular items from Ever Bilena.
- Free Zest Bar soap for every purchase of Pantene 200 ml shampoo.
- And lots and lots more.

Moreover, for every P300 single or accumulated purchase entitles the chance to join and win in the scratch-a-prize promo wherein 100 units of shock proof and water resistant Siemens ME 45 cellphones are at stake.

The H&B Annual Fair runs from Sept. 1 to 30 at all Health and Beauty outlets of all SM Department Stores and SM Malls.

Saturday SPECIAL



CRUZ. "I would never lie about my age."

Penelope Cruz laughs off pretensions of fame

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

MALIBU, California—Penelope Cruz just rolls her eyes at flattery.

She shakes her head and tries to hold back a smile when asked how it feels to be described as a "seductive Spanish superstar."

"It always makes me laugh," the actress said. "In Spain, you don't really grow up with the concept of a star . . . You are an actor. And if you work, you are very lucky."

High-profile romance

Her latest film, "Captain Corelli's Mandolin," is one of three American movies she stars in this year, and a current high-profile romance with recently divorced Tom Cruise has grabbed international headlines.

Although the press has romantically linked her to co-stars such as Matt Damon from last year's "All the Pretty Horses," Nicolas Cage from "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" and now Cruise, her co-star in the upcoming "Vanilla Sky," the actress refuses to comment on her private life.

"I always expect the question," she said. "I want to keep it for myself.

Of Cruise, she would only say: "He's an amazing person. His generosity . . . is amazing."

Kitchen

At the end of a long day of interviews, Cruz slumps against her seat in the kitchen of a Malibu mansion overlooking the ocean and fiddles wearily with a diamond-studded cross around her neck.

"You go through a process where you don't know if you're going to be able to deal with it," she said. "The attention is bigger, the pressure is a little bigger, but I look at it as, 'How lucky I am that I can have this job that I love so much.'"

Since she started acting at age 15 on Spanish television, Cruz has appeared in nearly 30 films, two of which have won the Academy Award for best foreign-language film—1992's "Belle Epoque" and 1999's "All About My Mother."

Other films include the 1999 romantic comedy "Woman on Top" and last spring's drug-traffic drama "Blow."

Cruz's was already an acclaimed actress in her homeland when she landed her first English role, a supporting part in director Stephen Frears' 1998 western "The Hi-Lo Country."

The language change was a struggle, making her feel like an outsider.

"In the beginning, it was difficult being on the set and missing so many things," she said. "I couldn't understand sometimes what an actor was saying to another actor, and I don't like missing stuff like that."

The communal feeling of a movie set is something she craves, so she focused on improving her language skills with each English-language film.

"Now I feel more comfortable in conversation. I understand most things. But I'm still studying to get better and improve the accent," she said.

Challenge

"Captain Corelli's Mandolin" was a particular challenge because she played a young woman from the Greek island of Cephallonia. Cruz trained with a dialogue coach to improve her English while trying to limit her Spanish accent in favor of a Greek one.

"Luckily, the Greek culture is a very similar culture to the Spanish one," she said.

The Spanish lilt didn't bother director John Madden.

"She's inclined to think of herself as not speaking as well as she does," he said, adding that the character ultimately speaks with a hybrid, "Greek-Penelope Cruz accent . . . or a 'Gruz' accent."

Cruz plays Pelagia, a rural doctor's lonely daughter, who falls in love with Cage's Antonio Corelli, a music-loving officer in a Fascist force that invades the island during World War II.

"She has this ability to reveal herself to the camera . . . showing unusual pain and conflict and emotion," Madden said. "She's very close in personality to the character. Whatever image the public has, 'sultry Spanish temptress' she ain't."

John Hurt, who plays her father, said Cruz lacks diva pretensions.

"We just became really good friends and talked about anything," he said. "We philosophized, we sometimes behaved like children. We sometimes were totally silly and sometimes very serious. That's how you create a relationship."

Success

Although Cruz's success owes a significant debt to her raven hair, olive skin and exotic, bee-stung lips, she said she does not obsess about looks and tries to remain modest.

"I would never lie about my age," the 27-year-old actress said. "There are other things I want to do with my life. I want to be a photographer. I hope to still be acting when I am an old woman, but I don't expect to maintain this rhythm of work forever." *AP*

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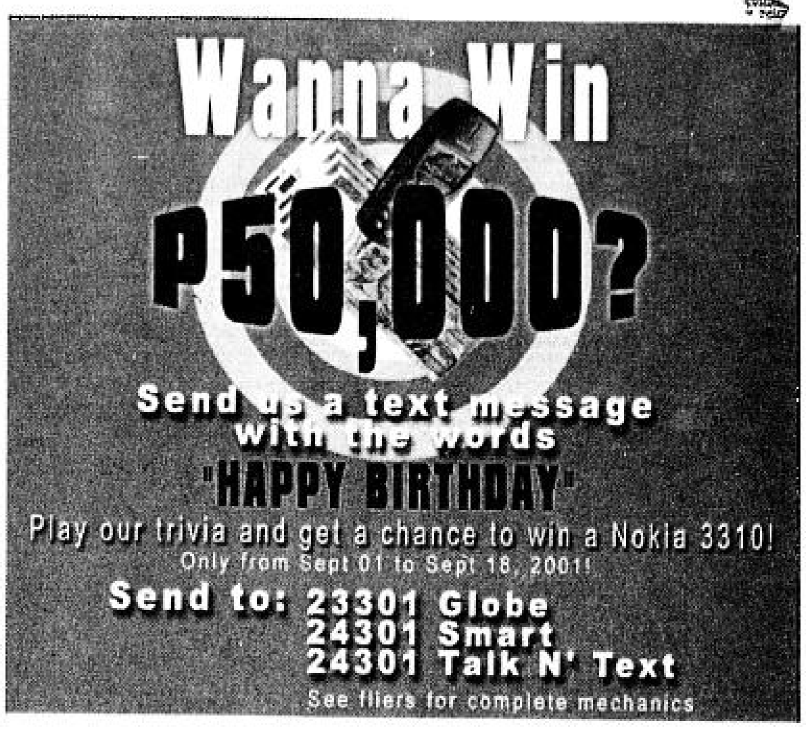

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Filmmakers support Cinemanila festival

By Veron Dionisio

NOW on its third year, the Cinemanila International Film Festival is once again attempting to gain wider support not just from the people in the industry but from the film public as well. The first of its kind in Southeast Asia, the festival has sometimes been regarded as a whimsical endeavor in a film market widely oriented to Hollywood filmmaking tradition. A festival such as this remains an elitist and minority preference and at times defeats the purpose of recapturing an audience for mainstream cinema.

Goal

Take this year's festival's goal: To show that the Filipino film industry is alive and well. We all know that the local commercial film industry has been fighting for dear life. Left to fend for itself, with nary any support from the national government, the industry never had it so bad. Film output is at its lowest while production cost continues to skyrocket.

With the approval of a 10 percent increase in withholding taxes for key entertainment personalities and production people, the industry is again facing another formidable challenge in its bid for survival, at a time when it can barely cope with excessive government taxation, made even more distressing by the low turnout of box-office hits in the recent months.

Potential

While technology may determine the quality and trend of moviemaking in the future, accessibility and appreciation for this technology remain problematic. Surely, there is the potential of technological convergence, foremost of which is the affordability and flexibility digital filmmaking can offer.

Advocates of this technology predict a film-less filmmaking in the future. For them, this could make production more cost-efficient and less dependent on Western filmmaking traditions.

As a result, there will be more room for less formulaic films. Hopefully, the dearth in better-made films would be augmented by this development.

So how has the industry been reacting to this gloomy but nonetheless challenging prospect? Why continue holding festivals? Isn't this an exercise in futility?

At a luncheon meeting sponsored by Ayala Cinemas Inc. for Cinemanila International Film Festival prior to its formal launching in September, film directors like the festival organizer himself, Tikoy Aguiluz, Chito Rono, Raymond Red, Lav Diaz and Rico Ilarde discussed the issues, prospects, and problems local filmmakers continually face: lack of funding, inadequate venues for alternative cinema, rising cost of production, capitalist mindset of producers, etc.

Short film

Raymond Red, despite winning an international award for his short film, "Anino," revealed that, contrary to what people might have expected (that he would be swamped with offers after gaining recognition abroad), his next film remains on the drawing board.

"It seems that producers won't even touch me with a 10-foot pole," he smiles. "They seem afraid to get me. So I continue to struggle. But right now, I'm planning to do more short films and pursue my long overdue project, 'Makapili.'

"I don't know if you've heard of it. For the past 10 years, we've been talking about this as my next film after 'Sakay' in 1993 and even 'Bayani' in 1991. *Ang tagal na talaga.*"

Red's support for Cinemanila stems from the festival's focus on showcasing alternative and independent cinema. He stresses, "Because that's where filmmaking is really converging. Production is getting more difficult at the same time that new technologies are being developed. So young people would want to catch up with technology.

"So you're taking advantage of digital cameras, post-production and all that. Everything can be practically set up at home. You know, they can edit on their PCs and if ever they get funding, maybe they can record it back on film and release it as a feature. And that technology is already here in the Philippines."

Uncertainty

For its part, premiere production outfit Star Cinema is likewise taking advantage of digital filmmaking. With the uncertainty and unpredictability of commercial films' box-office reception, the people behind Star Cinema are venturing into the more experimental but less costly area of digital production.

Maricel Samson, head of this new department, disclosed that they are looking into showing these films on cable TV. "But nothing is definite yet," she cautions. "We're still looking into its viability and profitability aspects."

However, Samson assured Cinemanila that they would support the festival, which will start in December. "We have three films in post-production, which we hope to join in the festival," she beams.

Poignant story

These three films that utilize digital film production technology include "Taksi ni Pilo," a love story-fantasy directed by Milo Paez, starring Joel Torre, Lara Fabregas, Baron Geisler, Paolo Contis and Janet McBride; "ID," a poignant story of a father who is forced by circumstances to work as an OFW to support his family, topbilled by Ricky Davao, Glydel Mercado, Ronnie Lazaro, Ricky Rivero, Richard Quan and Roy Alvarez, directed by Gil Portes; and "Angel," a film that tells of a story of two blind couples who struggle to overcome their physically challenging situation in a society where disability is viewed as a nuisance and loss of opportunity.

Also present during the meeting was Lav Diaz, whose five-hour upcoming film "Batang Westside" would be one of the features in Cinemanila's December run. The film, according to Diaz, was shot entirely in New York and New Jersey and took one year to complete.

Chito Rono, on the other hand, pledged his support by stating that he hopes to complete his Rosanna Roces-Diether Ocampo starrer in December. "So hopefully, I'd be able to field the film in the festival," he said. "*Ako naman*, I've always liked to support Tikoy and Cinemanila. But you know, we don't really control our products. Major production companies own them. But this time around, I really hope I'll be able to participate."

It appears that despite the depressing and dreary atmosphere prevailing in the industry, these filmmakers are not about to throw in the towel. The support they give to Cinemanila proves that, sink or swim, they are here to stay.

As Cinemanila organizer Aguiluz says, "This is the only film industry we've got. We don't have a choice. We can only reap what we have sown so far."

DIRECTORS Lav Diaz and Raymond Red at lucheon meeting.

TIKOY Aguiluz, Chito Roño and Red.

Viewers evaluate the latest movies they've seen

By Rica Arevalo

THE BIG bulk of the Filipino moviegoing public is the youth. With its growing population and distinct tastes, one wonders why they continue to patronize the box-office despite the low output of local and foreign films in the theaters. We asked them about the latest movie they've seen, and here are their answers:

Classmates

Jo Anne Orobia, 19, of Pateros, Metro Manila saw "Moulin Rouge" with her classmates. "It was enchanting. At first I was hesitant to watch but the moment I saw the big screen, I was completely taken by Baz Luhrmann's visual style.

"My favorite line is 'The greatest thing you'll even learn is to love and be loved in return.' Even if I was afraid to cry out loud, I couldn't help it because I heard women crying at the back of my seat."

Out of curiosity, Rey Aren Nera, 18, of Recto, Manila saw "Red Diaries." "Some scenes are unrealistic, especially when Assunta was receiving communion. Also, in the third episode, *hindi kapani-paniwala na ang isang lalaki, maski gaano ka-gago, ay hahayaang ipagalaw ang kanyang asawa sa mga kaibigan niya. May problema talaga sa istorya.*"

Outrageous

Maria Leah Diaz of San Pedro, Laguna was with her brother when she saw "The Animal." "I wanted to see Rob Schneider because he is part–Filipino. Some scenes were corny and outrageous. I didn't like their reasoning why white people don't like black people. I was also offended by the way they treated the Filipinos in the film, but Rob defended it. He looks good at being *"tanga."*"

Marites Tolentino of Sampaloc, Manila went out of her way to see "Tomb Raider" because of the movie trailer. "*Magaling ang* publicity *nila. Biruin mo naman, bitinin ka* everytime *na ipapakita sa TV*, or *kaya sa* trailer *sa sinehan? Siyempre, natural lang na maging* curious, *kaya kumagat naman ako.*"

REGINE Velasquez and Aga Muhlach, stars of "Pangako, Ikaw Lang."

"Pangako, Ikaw Lang" was seen by Ann Rochelle Cruz, 19, of Parañaque with her high school friends. "My friends and I hadn't seen each other for a long time, that's why we decided to watch Aga and Regine. *Gusto naming magbihis si* Regine, *gwapo si Aga, tsaka yung kasabay niyang* English film *ay napanood ko na, kaya okay lang na panoorin ang* 'Pangako.'

"*Hindi puno yung sinehan dahil* second week *na yung palabas. Nakatulong yung* soundtrack but the plot was a typical love story."

First week

Imelda Arahas of Las Piñas City watched "Jurassic Park 3" on its first week. "*Maraming nanood, maraming sigawan, mga lalaking napapaangat sa upuan dahil sa gulat, at mga ilang babaeng napapaakap sa mga kasama dahil sa takot. Wala siyang pinagkaiba sa mga naunang* "Jurassic," *iisa lang naman ang pinaka*-highlight, *mga* dinosaur and *kung paano makatakas yung mga bida.*"

"*Nakakatawa pero ang huling pelikulang Tagalog na napanood ko ay 'Anak,'*" says Grace Perez, 18, of Bacoor, Cavite. "*Pinilit lang ako ng mama at tita ko dahil bagay daw ito sa akin. Hindi ko akalain na magugustahan ko ang istorya at maiiyak pa ko.*

"*Hindi ko rin akalain na pagkatapos ng dalawang araw ay mapapanood ko ulit siya dahil niyaya naman ako ng barkada ko. Wala akong magawa kasi, kung hindi ako sumama sa kanila, maiiwan ako mag-isa sa* mall."

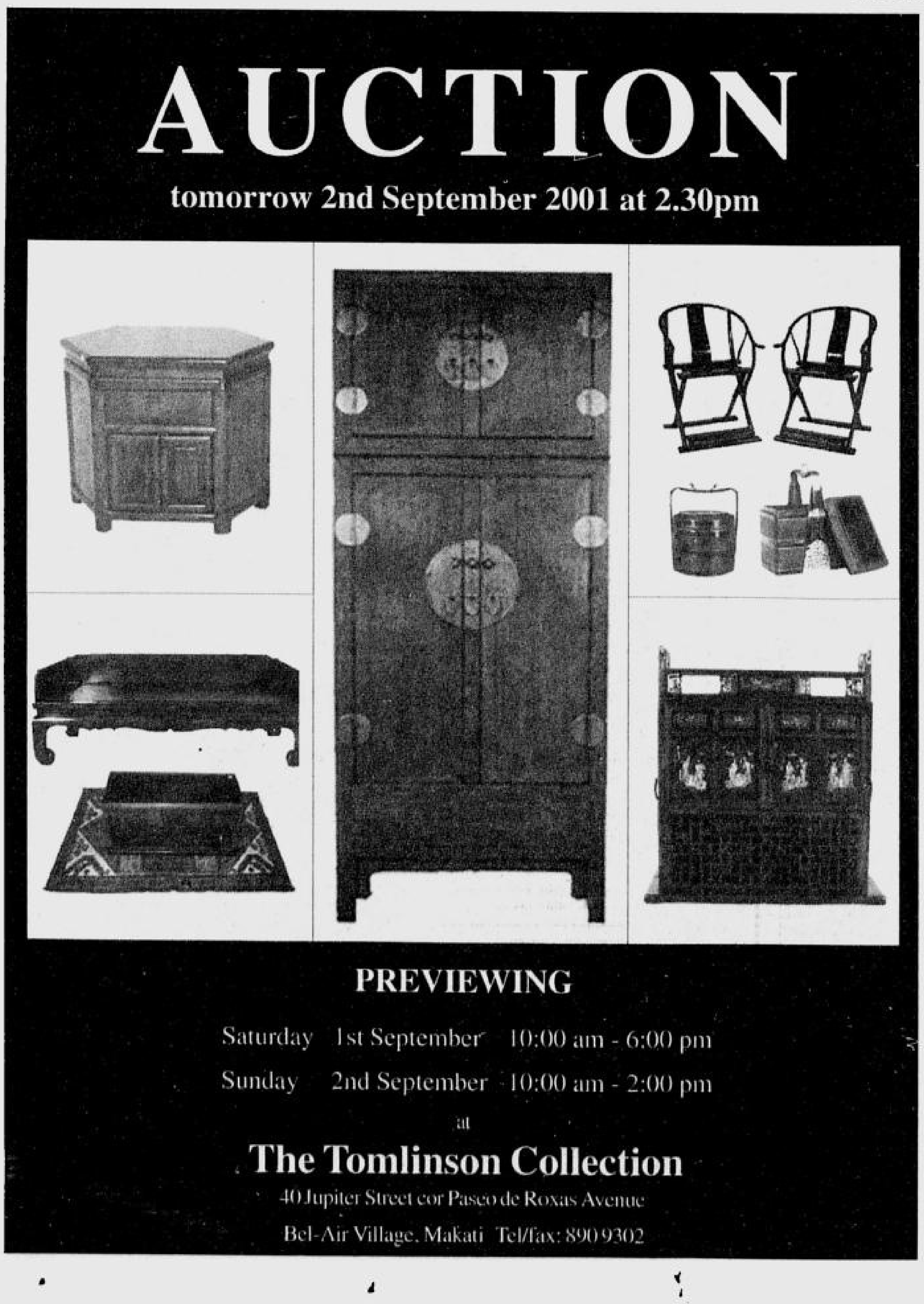
Sheila Cris of Binangonan, Rizal watched "Pearl Harbor." "At first, I thought it was about war but all throughout the film, it centered on the love triangle, which I liked very much. I appreciated the actor who played Roosevelt. I had goosebumps when he stood up and said to the general that, even if he was physically disabled, it was still possible to do great things."

Villain

Czarina Cruz of Binan, Laguna raves about "Swordfish." "I liked the acting of John Travolta as a villain. The action sequences were breathtaking, especially the 360-degree camera pan, and the slow motion explosion in the opening scene. The title itself puzzled me and made me curious.

"What bothered me was Halle Berry's breast exposure. I didn't see the relevance—maybe, it was a ploy to entice men to see the film."

Eliza Laudit, 21, of Bicutan says, "*Ang huling pelikula kong napanood ay ang 'Narinig Mo Na Ba Ang Latest?'* starring *ang paborito kong* sexy star, Joyce Jimenez. *Bukod sa 'kilig'* effect, *mayroon din naman akong nahita: Ang chismis ay nakakasira ng tao.*"



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'Still Lives' docu tackles shabu problem head-on

By Pocholo Concepcion

THE heat is on. Burning hot: the issue of drug trafficking and its main men, so-called drug lords whose identities point to the very top echelons of power.

Implications

Heavy are the accusations and their implications that could explode with a bitter truth—that the Philippines, especially its law enforcers, have virtually turned a blind eye on the proliferation of shabu, the most dangerous substance to hit the streets since heroin.

It's the perfect opportunity to take stock of the viewpoint that drug abuse is a problem that won't be solved any other way than through education. And that one great learning tool is watching movies.

Written and directed by Jon Red, "Still Lives" is documentary evidence that artists could provide some of the answers to the ignorance and confusion that the shabu problem has inflicted upon our society.

"Still Lives" is a movie that tackles the subject head-on, with a straight face, unblinking eyes and loads of humor. The story, taken from true-to-life files and inspired by Red's directorial stint in Erwin Tulfo's "Most Wanted" TV crimes series, unfolds like a soap opera, action flick, sitcom and docu-drama all rolled into a serious commentary on how the use and abuse of shabu has permeated day–to–day existence.

Pushers

The plot focuses on Enteng (Nonie Buencamino), an erstwhile tricycle driver who gets into the stuff as member of a gang of mid-level pushers led by Salvador (Ray Ventura). Enteng wants out and plans a clean exit on the pretext of going home to visit his mother in the province.

He gets permission from Salvador, but only after Enteng kills an associate, Pol (Allan Paule), who has fallen from the graces of the syndicate.

Enteng succeeds, but he finds himself unable to leave the house that has turned into a den full of addicts coming in and out to sniff their fix for the day.

These addicts, composed mostly of young people, provide the meat of the story. Each of them has a story to tell, and director Red allows these characters to narrate events by talking straight into the camera.

Melodramatic monologue is avoided through the deft use of humor—and this appears not as a put-on because the situations shabu addicts find themselves in are really laughable.

Laughter in fact is used to the hilt, as "Still Lives" goes into "commercial breaks" with a thoroughly effective Soliman Cruz playing a "shabu endorser."

How this movie ends is how a typical crime syndicate breaks up: with bloody violence. This is one movie that has a disturbing sense of déjà vu written all over it—from the numbing realization that the premise of "law and order" could also mean the police controlling the drug trade, to the biting reality the theme music ("Kagatan" by Juan del Cruz) provides: "*Durugin mo hanggang sa ika'y maging bato...*"

Although the story's pacing lags near the end, it is only a minor drawback considering the superb acting turned out by a cast comprising some of local filmdom's more recognizable names. The talk is that everybody worked for free, because they believed so much in the project and gave their "unquestionable dedication." This is perhaps one of the rare moments in which you'll appreciate the aforementioned actors, with Joel Torre, Ynez Veneracion, Mel Martinez and most especially Caridad Sanchez portraying offbeat yet natural characters.

Biggest star

But the biggest star that deserves mention is the camera used in the movie: a single digital video cam that does not move but captures the movements of every character. The decision to use only one camera may have been dictated by economic factors, but then again, it apparently serves as a metaphor—as in the characters "trapped" or "stilled" by shabu addiction. It is, incidentally, quite a clever way to contrast the hyperactive behavior of shabu users.

In the end, Jon Red told his audience during a sneak preview of "Still Lives" not too long ago at the UP Film Center, people will appreciate the revolutionary wonders of the DVC—and how independent filmmakers like him may be able to do what they want without the constraints imposed by the the film industry establishment.

Red collaborated with friends to produce this fine, small-budget work in 1999. Lately it has been quietly making the rounds of small-audience venues (like some clubs in Malate).

We suggest that Viva Films or Star Cinema acquire the rights to screen "Still Lives" in commercial theaters—if only to put across its relevance to the day's headlines. Aside from that, of course, the bottom line is that this movie could be as financially rewarding as it is entertaining.

OPPOSING forces come to a stand–off in this scene from "Still Lives."

Reactions to proposed 10 percent additional withholding tax on the entertainment sector

By Bibsy M. Carballo

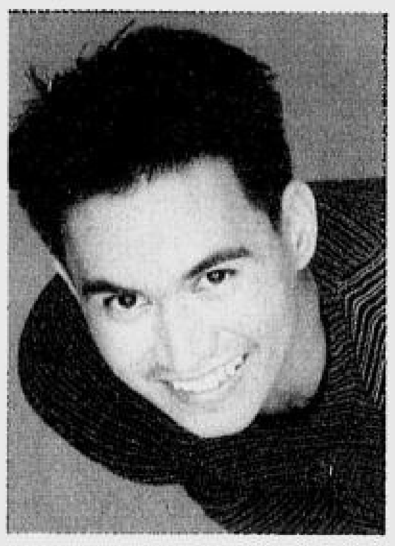
MANY workers in the entertainment industry are up in arms against the proposed 10 percent additional withholding tax. Once again, as in the past, previously conflicting parties have come together for one cause.

At a meeting with the PAMI, the professional managers' guild headed by June Rufino, in attendance were German Moreno, president of the Actors' Guild; directors Joel Lamangan and Carlos Siguion-Reyna; Mitch Valdes, president of the OPM; Audie Gemora representing Philstage and theater; plus Armida Siguion-Reyna and Marichu Maceda.

Consensus

The consensus: they will urge their respective members to object to the regulation increasing the withholding tax from 10 to 20 percent and ask for a deferment of its effectivity set on Sept. 1, pending further discussions with the BIR.

BIR revenue regulation 6-2001 provides for the increase that will affect all those subject to professional and talent fees—namely, professional entertainers such as actors and actresses, singers and emcees and others; professional athletes including basketballs players, pelotaris and jockeys; all directors of movies, stage, radio, television and musical productions; other recipients of talent fees.



REYES. Next to nothing left.

What it simply means is that with the 20 percent tax withheld, the entertainer's take home pay will be decreased by another 10 percent. If the taxpayer is paid net of taxes, then the producer concerned will have to shell out an additional 10 percent.

Petition for deferment

At the meeting, the Alliance of Concerned Entertainers was formed with the agreement that a petition for deferment be signed by members of various organizations.

ROA. Willing to sacrifice.

Reactions that night were unanimous. "The ruling is too arbitrary. There was never any consultation with the sectors affected," said Marichu Maceda.

"*Lumalabas na tayo ang nagpapautang sa gobyerno,*" seconded Armida Siguion-Reyna.

"Producers will be very much affected since they advance the withholding tax and this will affect their cash flow," observed June Rufino.

Kuya Germs offered to personally visit the BIR to dialogue. Elsewhere, reactions were more varied. Boots Anson Roa said, "I understand that would be tantamount to savings for us. In that respect *kailangan tayong mag*-sacrifice. It might lighten our load. If we are assured that the proceeds will be going to the government, I'm willing to sacrifice."

Lawyer Dennis Manicad feels that there will be no effect on the income of the actor if the producer continues advancing the tax withheld, which is the current industry practice. "However if the producer feels that he is already paying too much, he might ask the actor to reduce his rate."

Accountant Rowena Roxas says that, under the current set-up, artists would not be affected since they receive their fees net of withholding tax.

Refund

Entertainment writer Ed de Leon feels that the ACE is barking up the wrong tree. "The increase in withholding tax doesn't affect anyone because at the end of the year you will use it to pay your taxes, or even get a refund," he says. "What the government wants to do is simply improve its cash flow."

"What the movie industry should do is object to the oppressive taxation that is killing the industry. Cost of production in movies has gone up by 18 percent due to the peso-dollar rate increase."

It is a known fact that the Philippine film industry is the most heavily taxed in the world. Due to the current crisis in the economy, it is estimated that only two percent of workers in the entertainment field have jobs.

What is certain, however, is that the new ruling has agitated most specially the lower earners in the entertainment sector.

From Jack Borlaza, theater actor: "*Ayan ang nakuha nyong mga nag*-Edsa 2."

Arnold Reyes, actor-singer-composer, "*Parang pinangtrabaho mo lang ang gobyerno,*" pointing out that the 20 percent withholding and the 30 percent manager's fee will leave next to nothing to the actor.

Domino effect

"I feel that there will be a domino effect and the whole industry will suffer, and it's already in pretty bad shape," says actress Adriana Agacaoili. "If the system cannot go after the known bigtime tax evaders, how can we be certain it will be successful in remittance?"

Singer and back-up vocalist Sushi Reyes feels, "It is too much for us whose work is seasonal. Perhaps they should

REACTIONS/p.F6

MARICHU Maceda and June Rufino mull over entertainers' options.

The (other) story behind the founding of the Manunuri

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

WE were trapped. We had to get out of there. I pulled Adrian from the group and walked straight towards the Metrocom, stating in my best Queen's English that I was a tourist from Singapore.

Photographers

The Metrocom didn't know what to make of Adrian and me. They let us through as I hollered in my best theatrical voice, "Tourists. We're tourists!!" but not before photographers took dozens of pictures of us.

When we got away from the group, safely free from the wrath of the surprised police, I tugged Adrian towards Hotel Mirador, partly owned and managed by my friends Chito and Au Cobarrubias. Menggie Cobarrubias, a cousin of Chito and a UP Rep member worked there.

Certainly, there we could dry up, or Menggie could lend us fresh shirts to replace our wet ones. When we passed by the Casino Español, the guard there recognized me as I used to go there with my Spanish brother-in-law who was a member of the club. '"*Uyyyy señor...*" he said with a 'you naughty boy' tone, "*kasama ka pala dyan.*"

Hotel employees

Menggie was at the door of Mirador with other hotel employees, curious about the commotion not too far away from their staid premises. He immediately took Adrian and me to the restroom to dry up. Of course, we rapidly told him our story. I said I was expected at Taza de Oro.

When done, we nonchalantly walked by the demonstration area. *Parang bula.* The activists were gone but the police, to save face, were trying to look like they were on top of the situation. The press corps and photographers were still at it, the latter taking photos of policemen in full battle gear. This time, when we saw a familiar face we looked straight ahead. These days, we term that *deadma.*

When Adrian and I got to Taza de Oro, Manny Pichel, Pio de Castro III and Nestor were already there. Of course, they were interested in what had transpired not too far away from the comfortable air-conditioned restaurant. They were relieved that we were safe and asked us to please be careful.

Adrian and I had something warm to drink at Taza de Oro. Our adrenaline was still peaking. I had to check how the UP Rep members fared after the police and firemen's attack, so I excused myself from the group. Adrian and I would still have to go to UP. Nestor and company again told us to be careful.

Meeting

Not too long after, the other soon-to-be *manunuris* arrived for the meeting. The original 10 members decided on the rationale for the existence of the group. Thus, the *Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino* was born on that propitious May 1 in 1976.

With the years, the *Manunuri* has enjoyed prestige, inducted new members, been involved in controversies, seen the passing away of two of its founders, Pete Daroy and Pio de Castro III, the rise and fall of Marcos and Martial Law.

A majority of the members have been participants in People Power I and II. There are many stories revolving around the Manunuri members and the Urian Awards but few realize that the group was born on that eventful Labor Day in 1976 when a small but valiant segment of Philippine Society led by the labor sector shouted "*Tama na, sobra na!*" at the dictatorial Marcos Regime.

Spirit of protest

The dike had been pierced and there was no stopping the masses. The spirit of protest grew more vocal, more open and more confrontational, forcing the regime to be on the defensive and be more accommodating about political protest.

That spirit of dissent increased and spread nationwide through the ensuing years, culminating in the historic People Power in 1986.

Manunuri members remember May 1, 1976 as the founding date of the group. I remember it better as the day the protest movement qualitatively changed and was never the same again.

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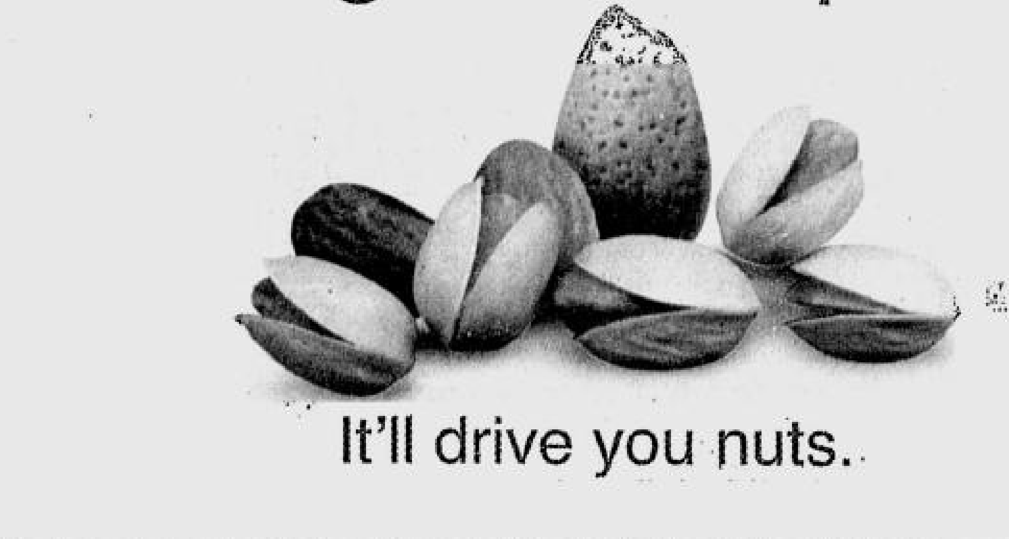

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1. Anchor Embroidery Threads should be used for Cross Stitch, Free Style Embroidery, Friendship Bracelet and Paper Embroidery. Presentation of bands for the categories below are required upon submission.

2. Cannon Crochet Balls should be used for Beaded Crochet Bag, Crochet Blouse and Tatted Doily / Centerpiece Category. Presentation of bands for the above category are also required upon submission.

3. Entries for Cross Stitch and Freestyle Embroidery Competition should not be framed and could be of any size.

4. There should be five entries per category to declare winners.

5. Deadline for submission of entries is October 15, 2001.

6. Winning entries will be framed and displayed during the Arts & Crafts Day to be held in the following venues and dates:

Robinsons Galleria
November 16, 17, 18

Farmers Plaza Bldg.
Atrium - November 23, 24 & 25

Crafts	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
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CrossStitch- Filipiniana	15,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00
Needlepoint (on canvas) of any NeedleWorld Design	8,000.00	5,000.00	3,000.00
FreeStyle Embroidery Flowers	5,000.00	3,000.00	1,500.00
Crocheted Blouse	5,000.00	3,000.00	1,500.00
Tatted Doily or Centerpiece	3,000.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
Beaded Crochet Bag	3,000.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
PaperEmbroidery	2,000.00	1,000.00	500.00
Friendship Bracelet	1,000.00	500.00	300.00
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God's gift to Matet de Leon

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

SUPERSTAR Nora Aunor is quiet. So quiet, in fact, that her silence deafens. She's hurting bad. The kind of hurt that is so deep because it slices into a mother's heart.

Ma. Ana Teresa de Leon—Matet, for short—is the source of her mom's pain. She is 17 years old, all set to join the adult world barely two months from now. Why she chooses this time to metamorphose into a "monster" is beyond logical explanation.

Everything that mothers dread their daughters to do to them, Matet has done to Guy—like, she learned to smoke and drink at a time when girls her age hadn't outgrown their Barbies yet. She attracted bad friends.

She hated school like the plague. She not only played hookey, she made an art out of it. Whenever she was enrolled—yes, sometimes, Guy thought she was enrolled but she wasn't!—she spent more time out of school than in it.

She has made a habit of dropping out of her subjects.

Rebels

Where would she go, you ask? Oh, like other rebels, she'd go to the malls. But sometimes, she also stayed home—with a boyfriend.

Matet was in a hurry to fall in love. And she fell in and out of it like it might go out of style tomorrow. There was a time when she was rushed to a hospital because, loud show biz whispers hooted, she had an ectopic pregnancy. Official statements later came out that she had acute appendicitis and had to be operated on.

And Matet obviously hadn't heard of the fourth commandment, that divine injunction about honoring one's parents.

Lately, three women simultaneously came out for their 15 minutes of fame, improbably claiming that they were all Matet's biological mother. Matet slammed them all with the painful cry: *"Kung hindi ako ipinamigay ng nanay ko, hindi sana ako nagkaganito."* ("If only my mother didn't gave me away, I wouldn't have turned out this way.")

Depth

That was heart-rending. I cried when I read Matet said that. It meant she acknowledges she's a failure. That's painful enough. But it signified the depth not just of her longing for her real mother but also of her loathing for Guy. That turns the knife embedded in the heart.

I remember when Guy got Matet. Actually, Mamay Tunying (Guy's mom) wanted her to adopt another baby but Guy chose Matet. The first time she wrapped her arms around her, she immediately wanted her as her own.

Later, the meaning of the fact that Mamay Tunying died on Matet's birthday wasn't lost on Guy. It was like God gave Matet to her for her to love when he took her mother from her.

Matet was an angel, her curly, auburn hair, long eyelashes and plump, red cheeks made her the godsend everybody loved. The world doted on her. Every first thing she did was photographed for posterity, every little antic was dutifully chronicled by reporters who couldn't get enough of her.

For a while there, she joined show business as a child star, pitted against another wonder tot, Aiza Seguerra. She made several forgettable movies and, when she outgrew her baby fat, she faded from the scene to resurface, many years later, as a show biz hopeful who couldn't get her act together, much less make a decent claim to the throne where her mom used to sit.

Affection

Now, she's a rebel on the lose, wreaking havoc on everybody, including herself. She's a little girl lost crying out for the love that had always been given to her but which she never showed appreciation for. Demanding affection but rejecting it, she dares the world to love her but didn't recognize love even when it stared her in the face.

She'll be 18 soon but, deep inside, she's still an infant. I don't know how she'll take this column. I'm almost sure she'll consider this an unfair tirade and I won't blame her. This is actually my way of whacking her, hoping that this might register something in the deep recesses of her mind and make her believe in the future she has long forsaken.

Matet, honor thy mother—the mother who brought you to this world, even though you never knew her, the mother who cared for you, even if you believe you have all the reasons to never love her.

Future

Always bear in mind that even if you don't have a perfect mother (there is no such person!), and even granting that you have the worst mother in the world, you still have it in you to liberate yourself from the brokenness of your past in order for you to deserve the fullness of your future. Do not forever blame your mother/s for your misfortunes. You are what you make of yourself.

Matet, your life is God's gift to you. What you make of it is your gift to God. In other words, whatever other people may have done to you, you owe it to yourself and to your God to become the best that you are capable of becoming.

Believe in yourself. Know that you are a diamond that all the bad experiences you had in the past have only succeeded in cutting and polishing for you to shine and glitter even more brightly.

DE LEON. Little girl lost—but she can still find her way out of the mess she's in.

Matet, don't reject the people who love you. Get out of your self-destruct mode. It's never too late for you to get out of the hole you have plunged yourself into, and carve out a niche for yourself in the world that, believe me, is *not* out to get you.

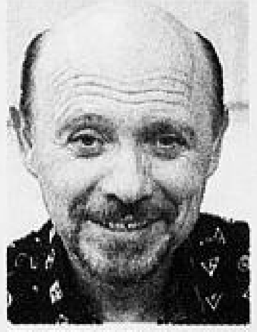
Destiny

No matter how big the mess you've made of yourself in the past, you can still bounce back and be the queen of your own destiny. Learn a lesson from Mette-Marit Tjessem Hoiby, the "wild child" commoner who recently exchanged wedding vows with Norwegian Crown Prince Haakon.

Finally, Matet, don't ever allow anybody or anything to steal your joy away from you. That joy is given to you by God. You may reject all the parents you can ever have on this earth, but you are forever His child and you are always a worthy claimant to the beautiful plan He has created for you.

Hector Elizondo makes a meal out of his latest project

By Mark Kennedy



ELIZONDO. His new film is about the joys of eating.

NEW YORK—The restaurant table in front of Hector Elizondo is immaculately set.

"Where's the food?" asks the actor, rubbing his hands together.

"I love eating. I love choosing a food. I love the touching and smelling of food," says Elizondo, who's credits include "Pretty Woman" and TV's "Chicago Hope."

Appropriate

How appropriate, then, that Elizondo's latest film is about the joys of eating.

In the romantic comedy "Tortilla Soup," he plays a widower and master chef whose skills in the kitchen are deteriorating even as he's losing control over his three independent daughters.

The film—a Hispanic take on Ang Lee's "Eat Drink Man Woman"—also stars Paul Rodriguez and Raquel Welch.

When a waiter appears, Elizondo orders a Mediterranean Cobb salad, even though lunch is waiting in his hotel suite. When it arrives, he happily doles out most of it to a visitor.

"Food is the great sacrament, the great metaphor," he says. "Food is the great campfire we gather around. It's the thing that draws us, literally draws us, together."

Foodie film

Asked if whether working on a foodie film helped Elizondo in his own kitchen, the actor hesitates.

"I'm a better chopper," he says. I don't pretend to cook fancy at all. I'm a helper."

That could be Elizondo's career motto. He has been the helper, the guy with a small part who adds something delicious to the mix.

"Everybody seems to think that my first movie was 'Pretty Woman' and that I just recently fell off the turnip truck," he says. "I've been working since 1961 nonstop."

He owes much of his resume to Garry Marshall, who's put Elizondo in a dozen of his films, calling the actor his "good luck charm."

The relationship began with an errant basketball pass 20 years ago.

Invited to a game of hoops, the two men, who had not been introduced, faced off. "He was guarding me. I threw a pass, hit him in the mouth. He falls down. They're making a big fuss," Elizondo recalls.

"I'm thinking, 'What's the big deal? Guy got hurt! Happens all the time. It could have been me,'" he says. "Then they tell me, that's Garry Marshall. Boom! He owns the place, the producer." Marshall called him over.

"He says, 'You're a great actor, but a lousy passer. I got a movie for you.'"

That movie would be 1982's "Young Doctors in Love." There would be more, including "The Flamingo Kid," "Runaway Bride" and this summer's "The Princess Diaries."

Cameo

Sometimes, Marshall doesn't initially have a role for Elizondo. Sometimes it's a cameo muscled in during script revisions. And sometimes being Marshall's good luck charm can be a pain.

"Yeah, it can be," the actor says, carefully. "It can be."

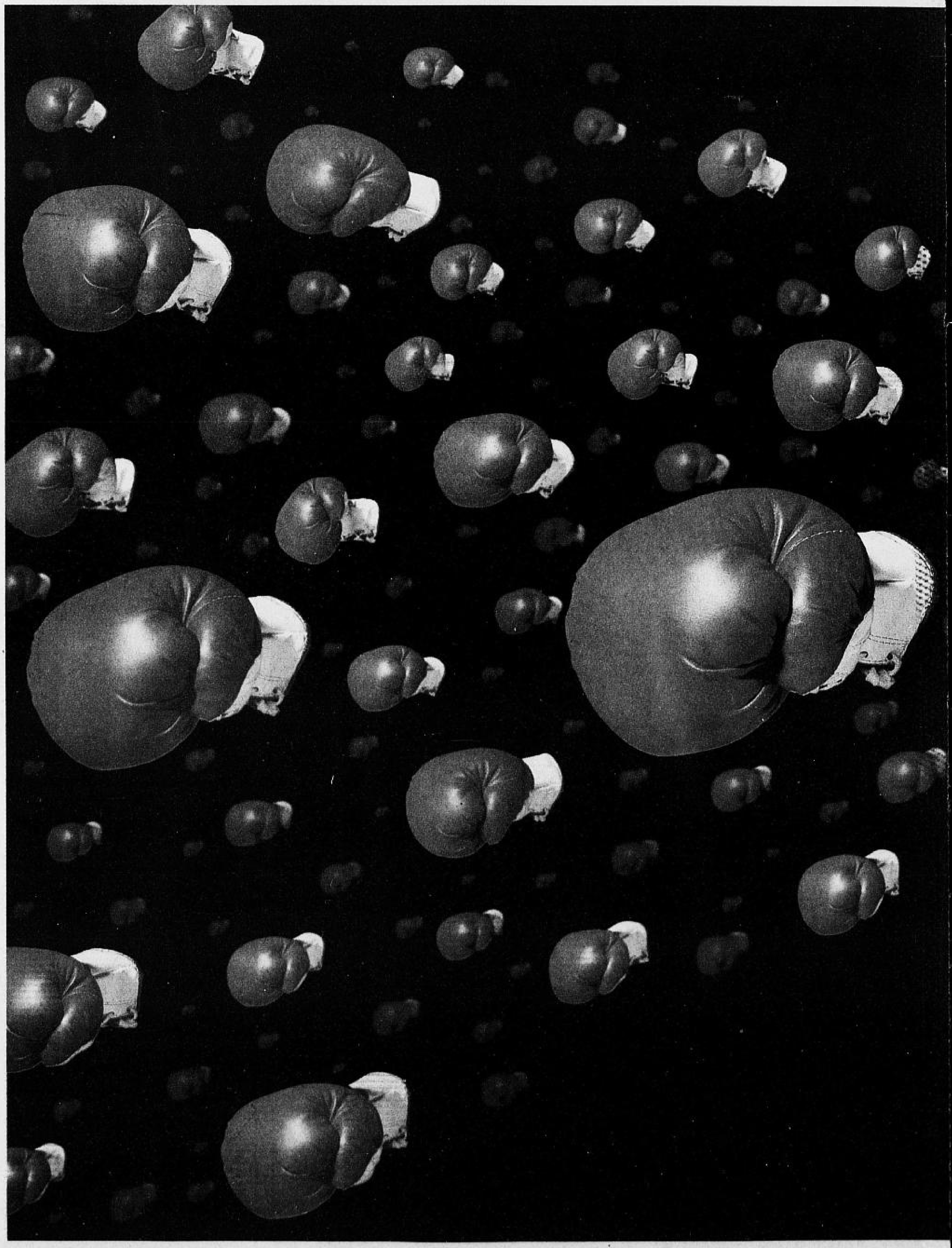
"Secretly, my agents would rather I not do another Garry Marshall movie. I don't need the work," says Elizondo.

Then, why do it?

"A strange loyalty," Elizondo says. "He's a good human being. I respect Garry. He's one of those people who gets better with success."

Born to a Basque father and a Puerto Rican mother, Elizondo was a thin lad growing up in New York. "I was the guy who used to be chased around the block," he says.

HECTOR/ p. F5



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French women directors come into their own

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

JUST like the Philippine movie industry, the film scene in France is experiencing a surge in the number of women directors who are currently making some of the more significant movies being produced in that leading film capital.

Politically committed

Again like female film directors in the Philippines, their French counterparts refuse to be limited to so-called women's movies. Quite a number of them are politically committed, notes Label France magazine, and they have new ways of looking at traditional family structures and relationships, and relations between the sexes.

AGNES Masson's "A vendre" (1995).

Directors focusing largely on social issues include:

Dominique Cabrera. Her major film, "Nadia et les hippopotames" (1995) focuses on a big strike and shows how a young mother has a difficult time making ends meet, even as union leaders bicker, utterly out of touch with reality.

Laetitia Masson. In "En avoir (ou pas)" (1995), a woman who has lost her job strips practically naked in front of an unfeeling recruiting officer. In "A vendre" (1998), she denounces the coldblooded materialism of the business world, and depicts a world that has lost its bearings.

Unflinching look

Pascale Ferran. In "L'age des posibles" (1996), she takes an unflinching look at her generation of 20- and 30-somethings, and exposes a fear of commitment that makes young adults rush willy-nilly from one affair to another, one casual job to the next, etc.

Agnes Jaoui. Her film, "Le Gout des autres," was hailed as the best French film of 2000 by the Cesar awards (France's Oscars). It zeroes in on bourgeois hypocrisy and the rigidity of social-class barriers, even in the ostensibly more liberated and liberating modern age.

Life on a farm

Sandrine Veysset. Her 1997 film, "Y aura t-il de la neige a' Noel?," has a rural setting, one of the few French films that still recalls life in the countryside. Its point is that life on a farm, unlike urban living, is not subject to traditional social norms.

Marion Vernoux. Her 1999 production, "Rien à faire," affirms the insurmountability of class structures.

These female directors hope that, by exposing social ills, they can help heal them, so that the country's young people can grow up in a world that's less circumscribed and hypocritical than the one they live in now.

Family dramas

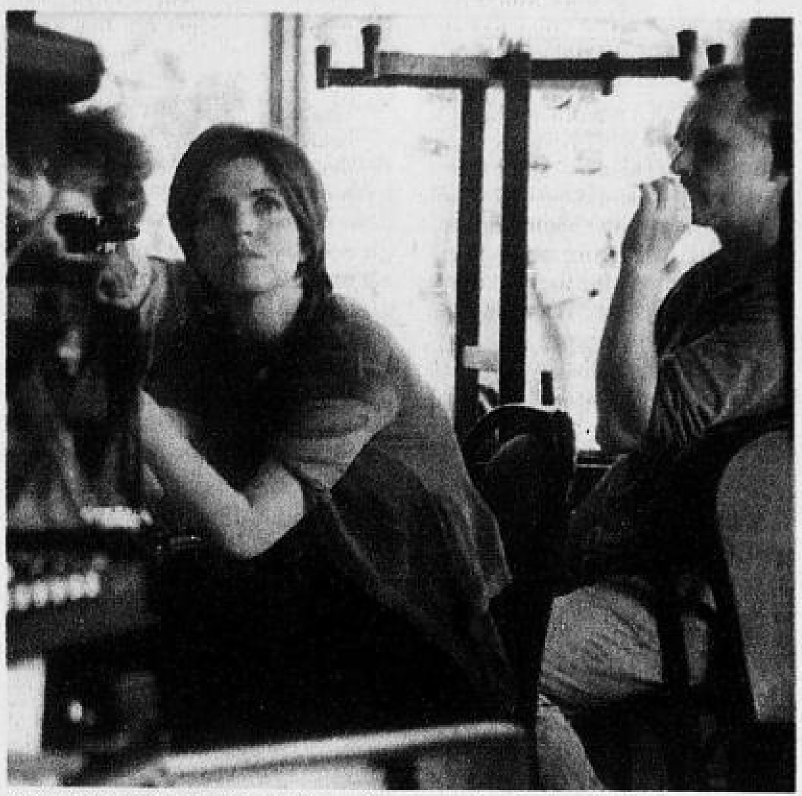
When it comes to family dramas, another group of women exposes the numerous traumas and other negative psychological consequences in relationships between siblings, between parents and children, and between spouses.

In 1990, **Nicole Garcia** evoked the pain of a family breakup in "Un week-end sur deux." In the searing drama, a divorced mother desperately seeks to win back her children's love.

In Nénette et Boni" (1997), **Claire Denis** shows how two children and their absent father are unable to come to terms with suicide and teen pregnancy.

Young girl

For her part, **Laurence Ferreira Barbosa** made "La Vie moderne" (2000) to show how a young girl fails to cope with her parents' lack of understanding.

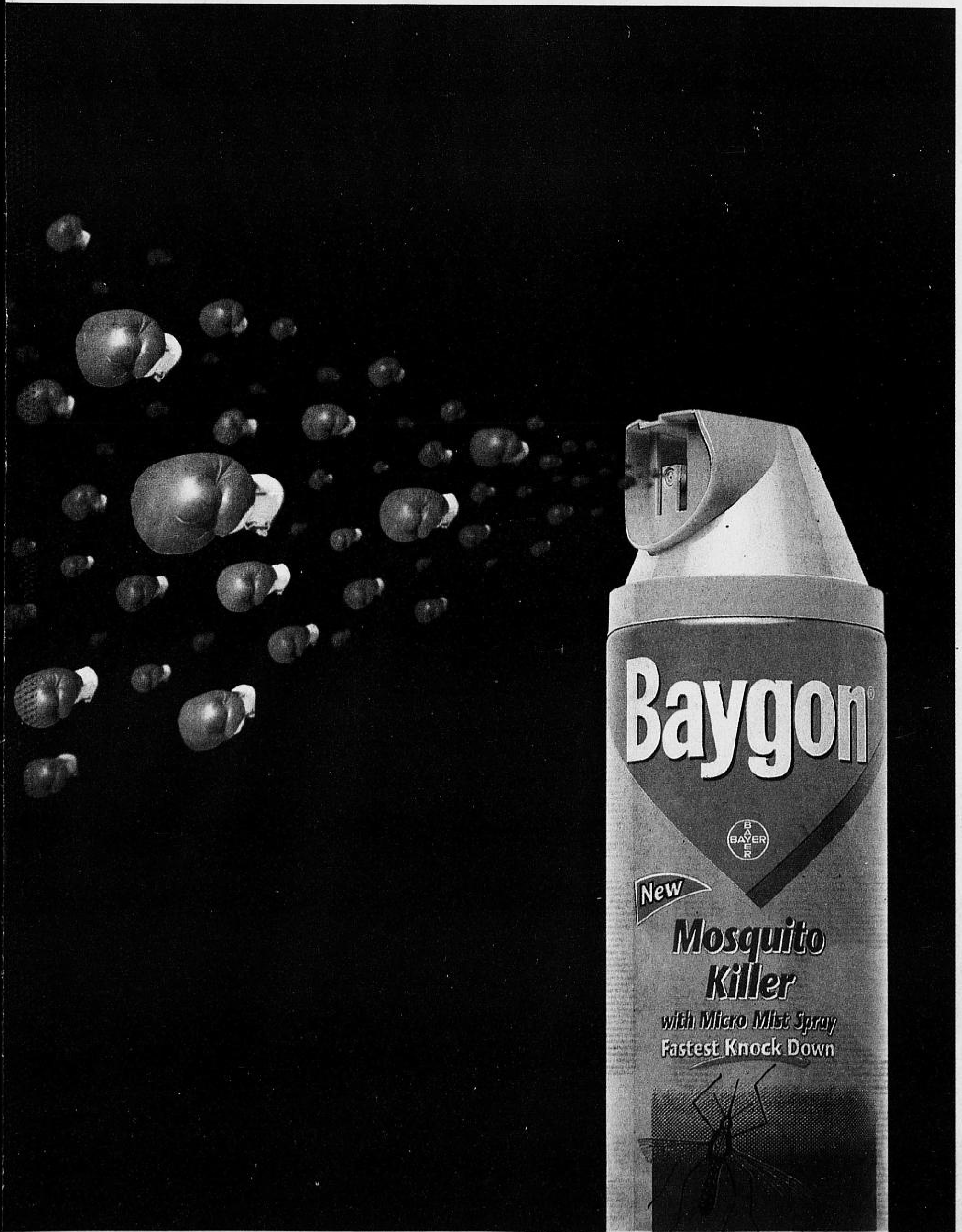


AGNES Jaoui, producer, writer, director and actress rolled into one.

Noemie Luovsky also depicts young people fleeing family constraints in "La vie ne me fait pas peur" (1999), with occasionally violent consequences.

With "Les Fils du requin" (1994), **Agnes Merlet** focuses on two children abandoned by their mother, and makes viewers see the world through their precocious eyes.

In contrast, **Tonie Marshall** also chooses to deal with neurotic family members, but with humor. In "Enfants de salaud" 91996), siblings are suddenly brought together at the trial of a father they've never known. .



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(Conclusion)

LOTUS POND
R. Valencia

"MY father was a splendid farmer and many times I would watch him add ACV to the feed and water of ailing animals and it acted like magic. The ACV seemed to possess some miracle ingredient that could help restore health to the animals.

Long hours

"I remember when my father put in long hours at the farm during the harvest period. He was up long before daybreak and would not retire until late at night. I would watch him come into our kitchen, put a heaping teaspoon of honey in a glass, add two teaspoons of raw apple cider vinegar, fill the glass with water and then sip it slowly!

"I would ask, 'Father why do you drink apple cider vinegar, honey and water?' Father would reply, 'Son, farm work is long, hard work. It can produce chronic fatigue in the body. Whatever is in this mixture relieves me of that chronic fatigue.'

"Yes, father was correct. There was an ingredient in that drink that renewed his vitality and relieved him of chronic fatigue and stiffness. That ingredient is potassium along with powerful enzymes, minerals and trace elements that are in organic, raw apple cider vinegar.

"Most people today, when they work hard, turn to all kinds of dangerous stimulants to relieve their chronic fatigue: alcohol, tea, coffee, cola drinks, pep pills and even dangerous, addictive drugs.

"My father's good advice fell on youthful ears. It was some years later that I realized that my father was a smart man in using raw honey and raw apple cider vinegar, rich in potassium to combat chronic fatigue."

Military academy

Paul Bragg later on went to a military academy where his health suffered terribly. He fell ill with tuberculosis due to the poor diet served at the institution. At a sanitarium in Switzerland, he met Dr. Rollier who put him on the ACV health program.

Paul states, "I owe much of my recovery to ACV and honey, as it's a persistent fighter against germs and toxins! Each morning at the sanitarium, I was given the same drink my father took for energy and health . . .'

"I was 100 percent cured from TB in less than two years after cleansing and rebuilding with a perfectly balanced diet, correct deep breathing and alpine sunshine. Healthy living was my cure! I have been an ardent user of organic, raw ACV and raw honey ever since."

Fortunately, Filipinos can avail of this book on ACV since it is available at National Bookstore. In addition, the Bragg family has made it their mission to promote the use of organic, raw apple cider vinegar bearing their family name and this product is now available locally.

Hector . . .

(From page F4)

A trim 179 pounds at age 64, Elizondo is body conscious and works out regularly. "Inside this body is still a skinny kid," he says.

At first, he played a lot of baddies, including a nasty criminal in "The Taking of Pelham One Two Three."

"But ever since 'Pretty Woman,' I can't go near those roles. I'm the quintessential mentor and good guy," he says.

Like the late Anthony Quinn, Elizondo likes to shift among ethnicities, playing a Russian postal supervisor in "Dear God" or a Greek diner owner in "Frankie and Johnny."

"I found out early that if the camera likes you, you don't have to be a pretty boy," he says.

AP

Ireland offers a 'new' star in Colin Farrell

FARRELL. The Irish actor plays an American outlaw in his latest movie.

By Mark Kennedy

NEW YORK—When Edward Norton pulled out of the upcoming World War II flick "Hart's War," it was Colin Farrell who stepped in. It was Farrell who also took over Jim Carrey's part for "Phone Booth" and he's set to star opposite Tom Cruise in Steven Spielberg's "Minority Report"—a role originally offered to Matt Damon.

No problem

"I have no problem being second place in people's minds to Matt Damon, Jim Carrey and Edward Norton," says the Irish-born, 25-year-actor.

But before moviegoers get a chance to check him out in those roles, they can see him as Jesse James in "American Outlaws," in which he fulfills a childhood dream of riding horses, running atop trains and shooting large guns.

"I didn't think they'd let a Dublin boy play Jesse James, you know?" Farrell says, with a grin.

It's a western without irony. Set in Liberty, Missouri, the film is so corny, you can taste the husk. The outlaws are honest, the country doctor is kindly and his daughter is beautiful. There's even an evil railroad baron—who wears all black.

At one point, Farrell utters the line, "Doc, go home. They ain't gonna hang no more Liberty boys."

Farrell knows this isn't exactly "Unforgiven."

"It's not that deep," he says, smiling. "It's never meant—in its design and in its nature—to change anyone's life. I wanted to just enjoy myself."

Simple answer

As for how an Irish lad got to portray an icon of the Old West, Farrell has a simple answer.

"There could be American actors out there going, 'Why don't they hire from our own back garden? Why do you have to go to Ireland?'

But Irish actors say the same thing about Tom Cruise in 'Far and Away' and Brad Pitt in 'The Devil's Own.'"

Jesse James is a leap from Farrell's previous work in "Tigerland," director Joel Schumacher's gritty film about GIs at a Louisiana training camp waiting to be shipped out to Vietnam.

Farrell played Bozz, an iconoclast Texan who delights in thumbing his nose at Army brass and figuring out ways to help get desperate fellow soldiers out of combat.

It was a great film that few people saw. Shot with handheld cameras, starring unknowns and dwelling on the brutality of an unpopular war, "Tigerland" didn't get into many theaters.

So Farrell used it as an audition reel.

"I did GREAT out of it," he says. "One of the most frustrating things about it really was that I did great out of it but a lot of the other actors didn't."

One co-star and friend, Shea Whigham, didn't work for a year, forcing him to go back to waiting tables to support his wife and two kids.

"Because not enough of the public saw it, a lot of the other actors came away with no more weight in the eyes of others than they had going into it," Farrell says.

Sample

Farrell got the "Tigerland" job in an unorthodox way. After meeting Schumacher briefly in a London hotel room, the director invited the Irishman to submit a sample of his work.

The actor—enlisting his sister, Catherine, behind a camcorder—did two scenes in a Texas accent. The director would later muse that the whole thing seemed fueled by a few pints of Guinness.

"I sounded like Blanche DuBois," says Farrell, who recently married English actress Amelia Warner of "Quills."

Nevertheless, Schumacher offered him the role. Farrell called Ireland with the news and he heard his family clinking glasses filled with champagne over the receiver.

Born in a Dublin suburb, Farrell is the youngest of four children and the son of a famous Irish soccer player. He toured Ireland in a dance troupe and worked in Australia for a year, returning to enroll at the Gaiety School of Acting.

Small part

He won roles in the BBC series "Ballykissangel" and the miniseries "Falling For a Dancer" before snagging a small part in "Ordinary Decent Criminal" with Kevin Spacey.

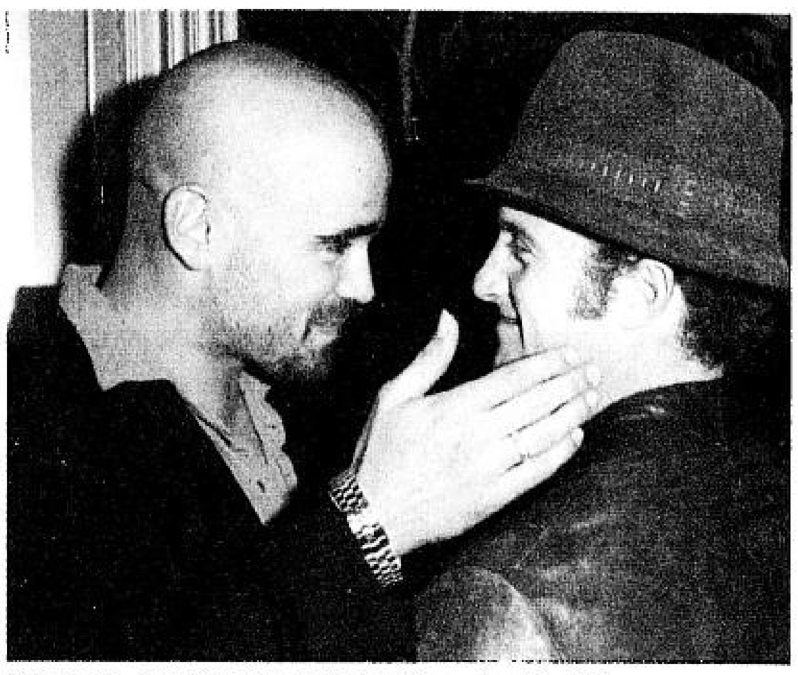
After "Tigerland," Vanity Fair called him "the Irish Brad Pitt" and Harper's Bazaar gushed that he was "the most irresistible Irish import since Guinness."

"With everything that's being said about him, I believe that he'll live up to his billing and more," says Will McCormack, his "American Outlaws" co-star. "He really does come from a place that is very real."

So real that Farrell suggests if his head swells up, you can punch it.

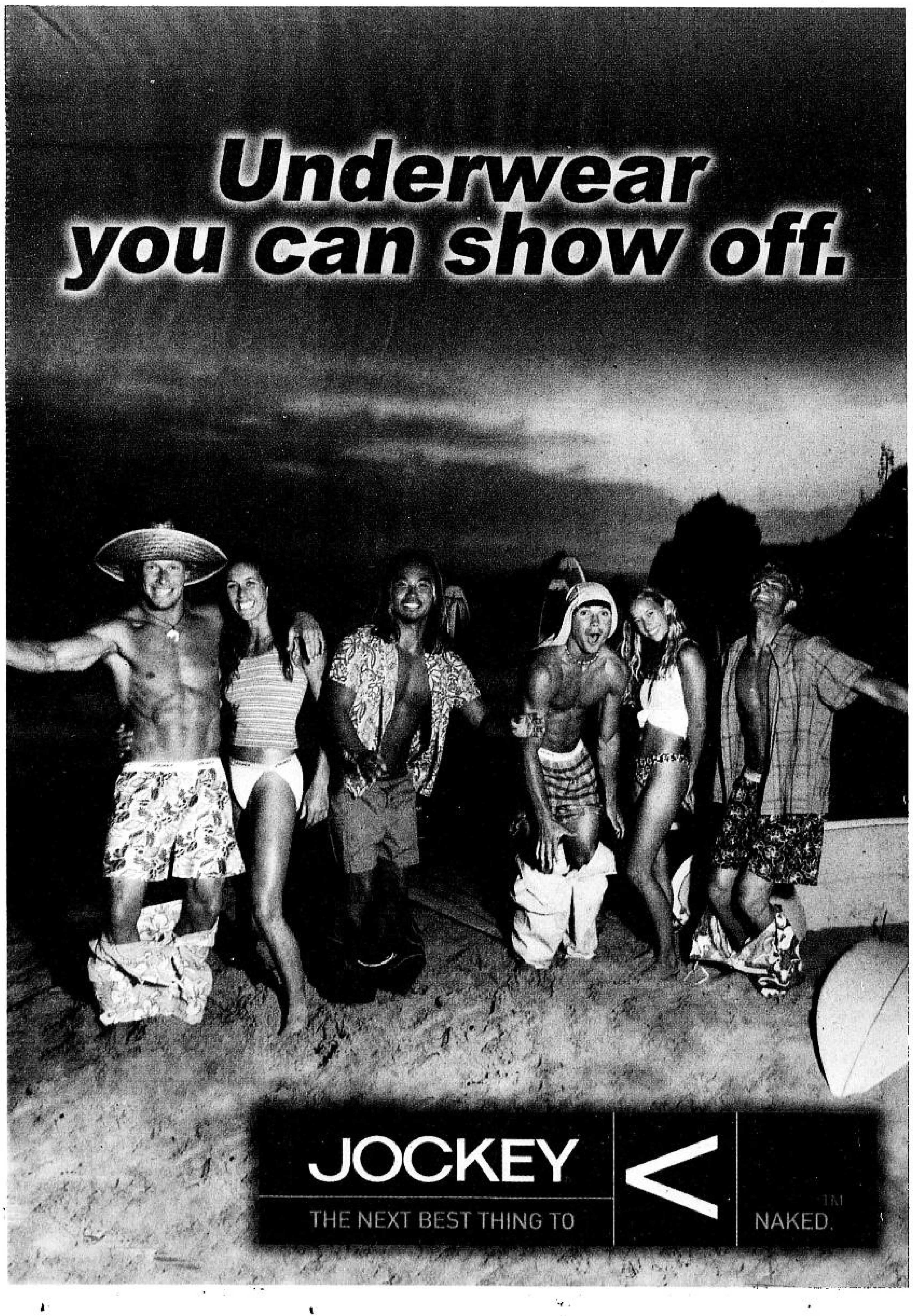
"I'm above nothing. I'm above no one," he says. "I'm doing a job that I've been doing for six years except I'm doing it now for more money and I'm doing it with bigger names." *AP*

> 'I have no problem being second place in people's minds to Matt Damon, Jim Carrey and Edward Norton'



FARRELL with "American Outlaws" co-star Scott Caan.

TONITE @ 9:00!
STRANGEBREW
WHO...???
WHAT THE...???
WHY!?!
LIFE... Through the eyes of a very strange host!
TUNE IN AND ENJOY THE RIDE!
A STRANGE NEW EPISODE EVERY SATURDAY @ 9:00 PM
ALSO AIRS
SUNDAYS @ 3:30 PM
TUESDAYS @ 10:30 PM
& THURSDAYS @ 12:00 MN
ONLY ON...
UHF CH. 37
HOME CABLE CH. 59, DESTINY CABLE CH. 59
SKY - call customer service 636.7591
UNLIKE



Underwear you can show off.
JOCKEY
THE NEXT BEST THING TO
<
NAKED.
TM

Travolta says he never knew he became 'uncool'

TRAVOLTA. Hollywood's comeback kid.

LONDON—Hollywood heartthrob John Travolta has confessed that he had no idea how "uncool" he had become before his career was revived in Quentin Tarantino's cult thriller "Pulp Fiction."

The 47-year-old Travolta became one of the film world's biggest stars in the late 1970s and early 1980s with roles in box office hits "Saturday Night Fever," "Grease" and "Urban Cowboy."

Oblivious

But, he admitted in an interview with Britain's Sunday Times, he was oblivious to how low his star had fallen by the time he came to act in the low-budget comedy "Look Who's Talking," which was filmed in Vancouver to save money.

"It is the saddest fact, but Kirstie Alley, the actress I was working with, told everybody: 'He is not cognizant of the idea that he has cooled off,'" he told the newspaper's Culture magazine.

"It was true. It was probably self protection and me not wanting to face the truth."

Building his reputation as Hollywood's comeback kid, "Look Who's Talking" eventually made $450 million, of which Travolta collected a cool $150 million through a profit-sharing agreement.

But the film—about a talking baby—did not enhance his reputation as a style icon.

"When I got hired by Quentin Tarantino for "Pulp Fiction" in 1993, I did not have a real awareness of how totally uncool I had become," Travolta said.

Right decision

He added that during filming he even wondered whether he had made the right decision by taking on the role of strung-out hitman Vincent Vega in the blockbuster.

"I thought: 'I should not have done this'," adding: "So what do I know?"

Travolta, married to actress Kelly Preston, was publicizing his latest project, the action movie "Swordfish," in which he plays a spy.

The star was panned for his recent role in "Battlefield Earth," a science fiction thriller based on a story by L. Ron Hubbard, the guru behind Scientology, which Travolta follows.

Travolta said that he wanted to carry on working, into his 80s if necessary. "I love acting and performing," he told the magazine, adding that his interests in flying his luxury jets and Scientology were "not enough." *Reuters*

Reactions . . .

(From page F3)

bracket it, and distinguish between those who have regular and irregular income."

Flutist Jong Cuenco asks, "Why penalize us who pay our taxes? Why not go after the big earners instead?"

Singer-composer Gary Granada opines, "*Ang feeling ko, pinapautang namin ang gobyerno. Sa malalaki sila umutang, huwag sa aming maliliit.*"

Assistant director Jean Rose Singson does not know if she falls within the categories affected by the ruling. "*Pero ang laki naman. Malaki na nga ang* 10 percent *kasi* and *liit naman ng kita namin* compared to the director."

Talent coordinator for TV Jess Usida, however, has a contrary view. He says, "*Noong una ayaw ko, pero nang napagisip-isipan ko, parang mas maganda yon kasi mas magaan sa amin, at hindi na namin mararamdaman ang bigat pagdating ng* April (filing time for income tax returns)."

High visibility

The general feeling of those in the entertainment industry is that, because of the high visibility of its members, the focus is again on them. In the past, they have become the whipping boys in issues like prohibited drugs.

When causes have to be promoted however, they are called upon for endorsements. And now, they are the milking cow when the government wants to fund-raise. And the feeling is not without reason.

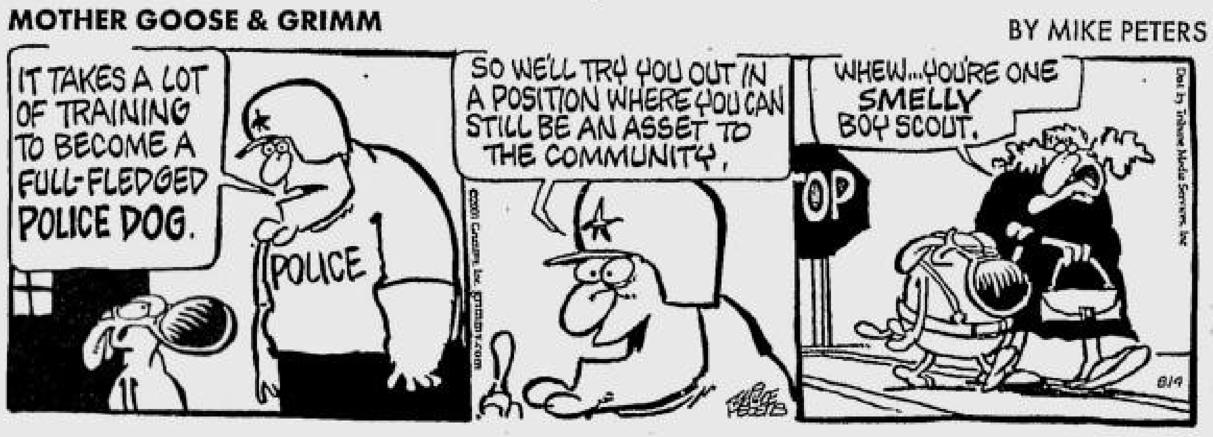
Others opine, however, that the entertainment sector is simply getting its just dues. It is no secret, they say, that much hanky-panky exists in the payment of taxes by those in the movie industry.

They point to collusion between producer and artist, where producers undervalue talent fees for tax purposes. With the mandatory 20 percent withholding tax, both producer and taxpayer will be forced to declare their real income, and this also serves as a monitoring device for the government.

Generally, most people feel that, whatever will be the outcome of this current issue facing the entertainment sector today, consultation is the only solution—not demonstrations, not work stoppage, not hunger strikes. It seems there is no longer any energy left

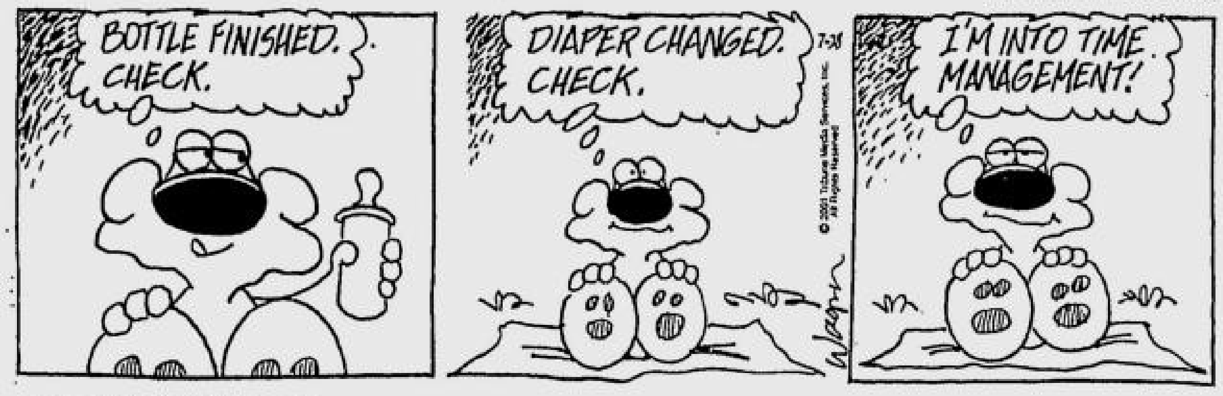
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


IT TAKES A LOT OF TRAINING TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED POLICE DOG.
POLICE
SO WE'LL TRY YOU OUT IN A POSITION WHERE YOU CAN STILL BE AN ASSET TO THE COMMUNITY.
©2001 Grimmy, Inc. grimm.com
WHEW...YOU'RE ONE SMELLY BOY SCOUT.
OP
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc
8/9

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


BOTTLE FINISHED. CHECK.
DIAPER CHANGED. CHECK.
7-28
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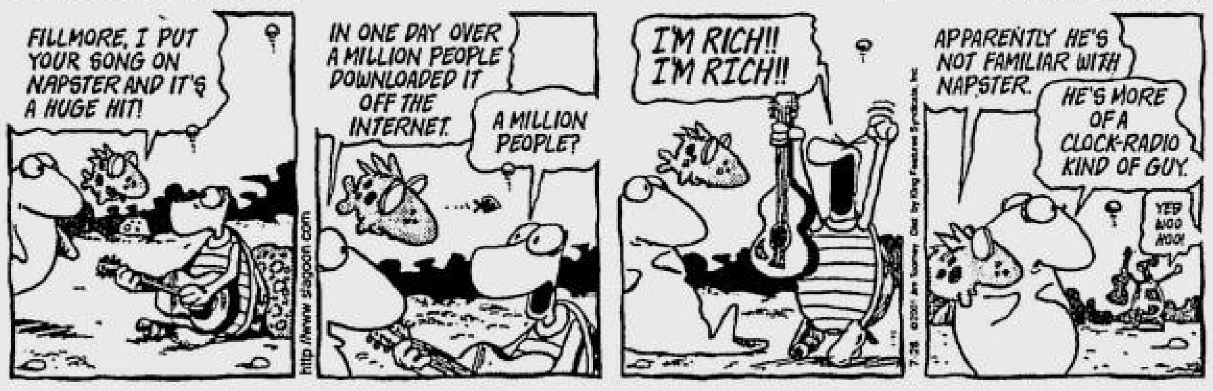
Wagner
I'M INTO TIME MANAGEMENT!

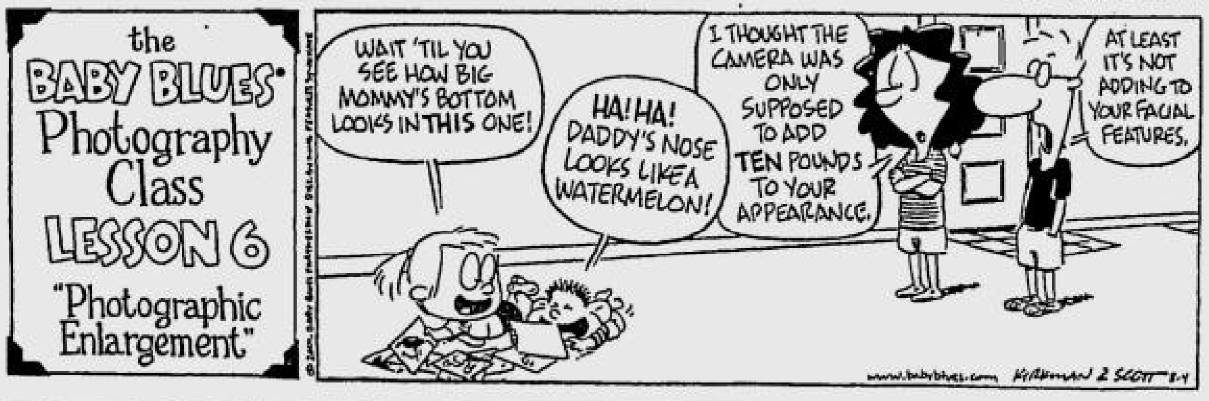
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


FILLMORE, I PUT YOUR SONG ON NAPSTER AND IT'S A HUGE HIT!
http://www.slagoon.com
IN ONE DAY OVER A MILLION PEOPLE DOWNLOADED IT OFF THE INTERNET.
A MILLION PEOPLE?
I'M RICH!! I'M RICH!!
7-28 ©2001 Jim Toomey Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc
APPARENTLY HE'S NOT FAMILIAR WITH NAPSTER.
HE'S MORE OF A CLOCK-RADIO KIND OF GUY.
YEE HOO HOO!

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


the BABY BLUES® Photography Class LESSON 6 "Photographic Enlargement"
WAIT 'TIL YOU SEE HOW BIG MOMMY'S BOTTOM LOOKS IN THIS ONE!
HA! HA! DADDY'S NOSE LOOKS LIKE A WATERMELON!
I THOUGHT THE CAMERA WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO ADD TEN POUNDS TO YOUR APPEARANCE.
AT LEAST IT'S NOT ADDING TO YOUR FACIAL FEATURES.
www.babyblues.com KIRKMAN & SCOTT 8-4

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gloria Estefan, Lily Tomlin, Barry Gibb, Christa McAuliffe, Alan Dershowitz
Happy Birthday: Be prepared to take advantage of the opportunities posed by changes heading your way. If you snooze, you'll lose—so perk up. Romance will be present, whether starting a relationship with someone new or rekindling the connection you already have. Finally, make time to enjoy life's little pleasures with the people you care so much about. Your numbers: 8, 12, 15, 29, 35, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This will not be the best day to spend money. Nor is it wise to lend cash or possessions to relatives or friends. Don't borrow either. Plan a quiet evening at home with your loved one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your stubborn attitude will make it impossible to rectify personal problems. Don't be silly. Swallow your pride and be flexible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You need a vacation. Look into travel possibilities or take off for the day with a loved one. The break from routine will provide a whole new outlook that should spark some good ideas.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be careful not to let yourself get run-down. Your tendency to do too much for others will be a detriment in the long run. Let children fend for themselves sometimes. You need a break, too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Love can be passionate if you are quick to respond to overtures. Spontaneity will be the key to a good relationship. You and your mate both need excitement.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You won't want to leave work unfinished. As long as you don't neglect your family, you can complete the project at home before family activities begin. Organization will be the key.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can reach your highest potential if you put an effort into self-improvement and awareness. Look for ways to spend an entertaining evening with that special someone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't push your luck with family members who have been insensitive and unresponsive lately. Instead, keep busy and out of the way. Take the initiative to start new projects.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can talk to friends all you want, but you're not likely to find any fast solutions to a recent emotional dilemma. The best course of action will be the direct, honest approach.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be careful not to leave cash lying around. Temptation will be too great for someone in desperate need. You are not likely to make wise investments involving other people.

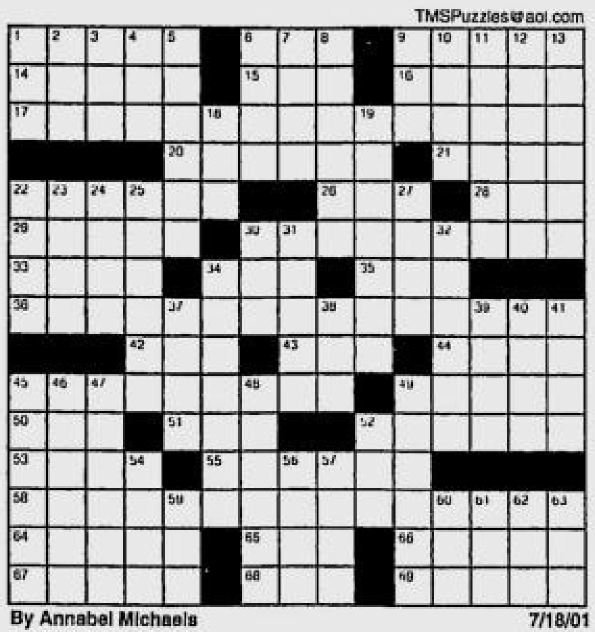
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will want to blame everyone else for your own shortcomings. If you can't play nice, it's a better idea to go it alone today. Take three steps back and re-evaluate your motives.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't take everything you hear to heart. Someone is trying to upset you. Find activities that will be inspirational and conducive to love.

Birthday Baby: You are exciting, adventurous and unique. You will dazzle your friends and entertain everyone you encounter. You are outgoing, bright and extremely energetic.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Annabel Michaels
Williamsburg, VA

7/18/01

ACROSS
1 Nolan and Meg
6 "___, the Beloved Country"
9 One-half-step higher
14 Under
15 Garden tool
16 Sovereign
17 Start of quote by Homer Simpson
20 Scale notes
21 Woodwind
22 Used innuendoes
26 Nest item
28 Rural stopover
29 What the nose knows?
30 Chicken coops
33 Persian fairy
34 Harbor vessel
35 Light brown
36 Part 2 of quote
42 Greek cross
43 Liveliness
44 Old Norse inscription
45 First winner of the Boston Marathon
49 Football kicks
50 "Just the Way You ___"
51 Undercover agent
52 Blockades
53 Regrets
55 Old Testament book
58 End of quote
64 Extend a look
65 Musical gift
66 Couples' dance
67 Up to now
68 Make free (of)
69 Awards honcho

DOWN
1 Baseball stat
2 Craving
3 Pub preference
4 Fall mo.
5 Stockholm populace
6 Singe
7 Early Hitchcock movie
8 Petty officers
9 Full-house sign
10 "Les Miserables" writer
11 Excuses
12 Change postal maps
13 Hogs the mirror
18 Gat or heater
19 Become cheerful
22 Pueblo dweller
23 Thought
24 Comic Crosby
25 Wistful
27 Fall guy
30 "Ben ___"
31 Land of the pharaohs
32 Lacking fidelity
34 Elephant's call
37 Galley tools
38 Money on the line
39 Suspended
40 Poker stake
41 1979 Polanski film
45 Actress Tomei
46 Pastry shells
47 Radio station employee
48 Word with bed or crackers
49 Reproduce illegally
52 Stitch
54 Certain
56 Language of Bangkok
57 Animal group
59 Hardened
60 Edible tuber
61 End of a bus.?
62 Live on
63 One of the Stooges

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

W	O	K	S		P	E	R	K		D	I	S	C	S
O	L	E	O		E	L	A	N		E	S	T	O	P
L	I	E	U		E	A	S	E		F	A	U	N	A
F	O	L	L	O	W	T	H	E	L	E	A	D	E	R
				N	E	E			L	A	C			
S	P	A	R	S	E		S	L	O	T		H	U	G
E	R	N	I	E		A	H	O	Y		S	A	N	E
L	E	T	O	T	H	E	R	S	D	E	C	I	D	E
M	E	E	T		O	R	E	S		W	A	K	E	S
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B	E	H	A	V	E	L	I	K	E	S	H	E	E	P
A	D	A	G	E		U	N	I	T		A	C	M	E
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S	T	E	R	N		U	S	S	R		P	O	T	S

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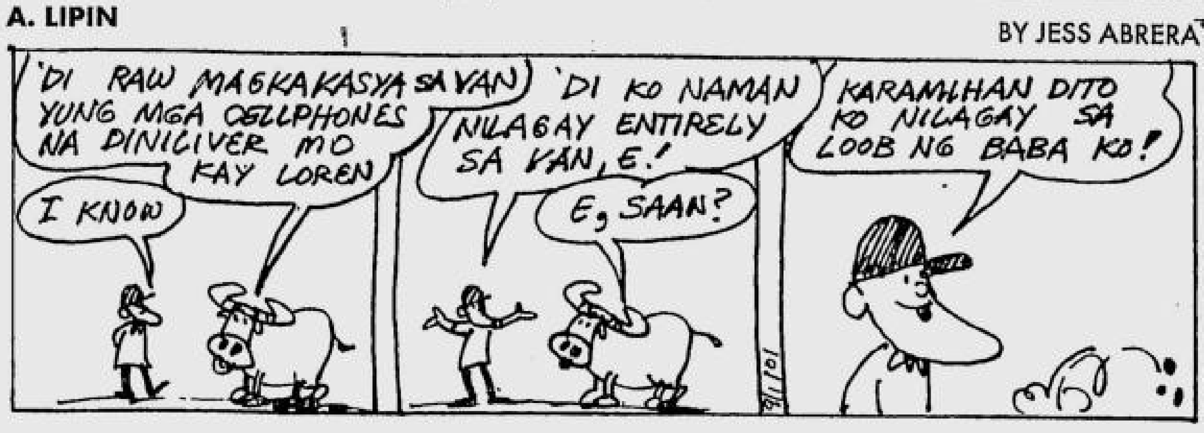
7/18/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

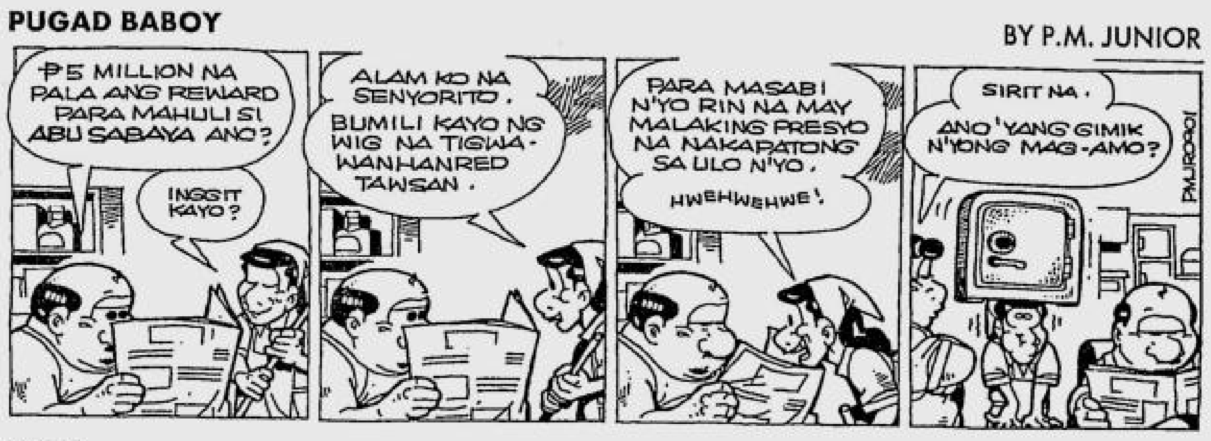
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'DI RAW MAGKAKASYA SA VAN YUNG MGA CELLPHONES NA DINILIVER MO KAY LOREN
I KNOW
'DI KO NAMAN NILAGAY ENTIRELY SA VAN, E!
E, SAAN?
8/1/01
KARAMIHAN DITO KO NILAGAY SA LOOB NG BABA KO!

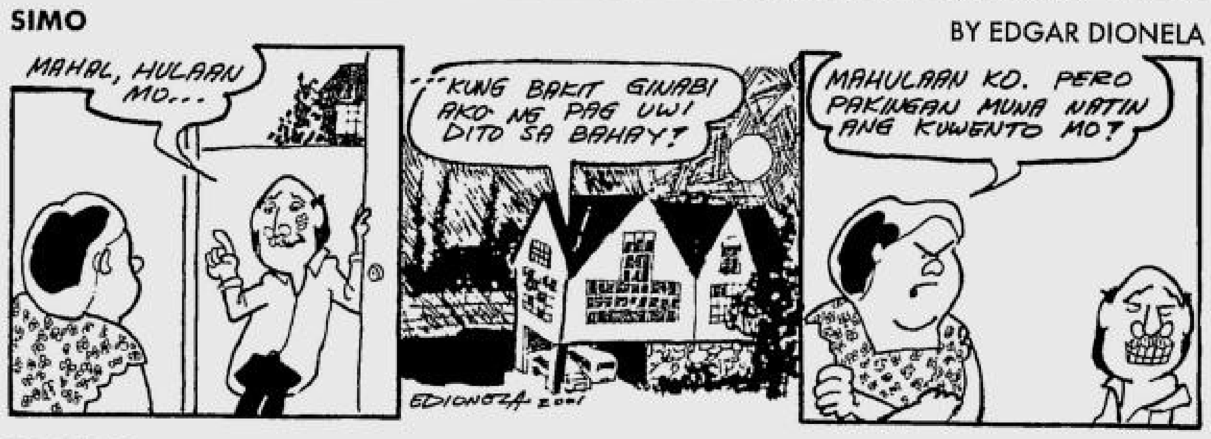
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


₱5 MILLION NA PALA ANG REWARD PARA MAHULI SI ABU SABAYA ANO?
INGGIT KAYO?
ALAM KO NA SENYORITO. BUMILI KAYO NG WIG NA TIGWA-WANHANRED TAWSAN.
PARA MASABI N'YO RIN NA MAY MALAKING PRESYO NA NAKAPATONG SA ULO N'YO.
HWEHWEHWE!
SIRIT NA.
ANO 'YANG GIMIK N'YONG MAG-AMO?
PMJUROR!

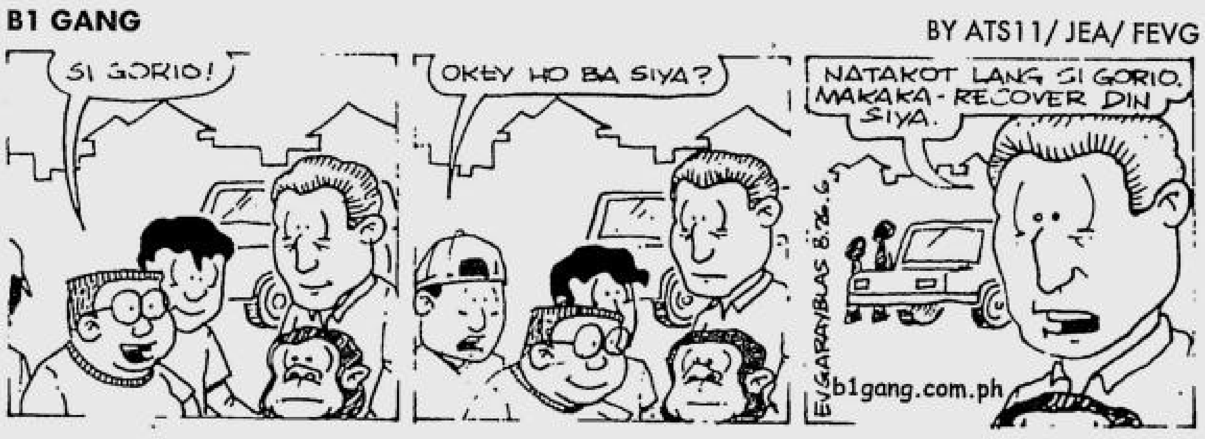
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MAHAL, HULAAN MO...
..."KUNG BAKIT GINABI AKO NG PAG UWI DITO SA BAHAY!"
EDIONELA 2001
MAHULAAN KO. PERO PAKINGAN MUNA NATIN ANG KUWENTO MO?

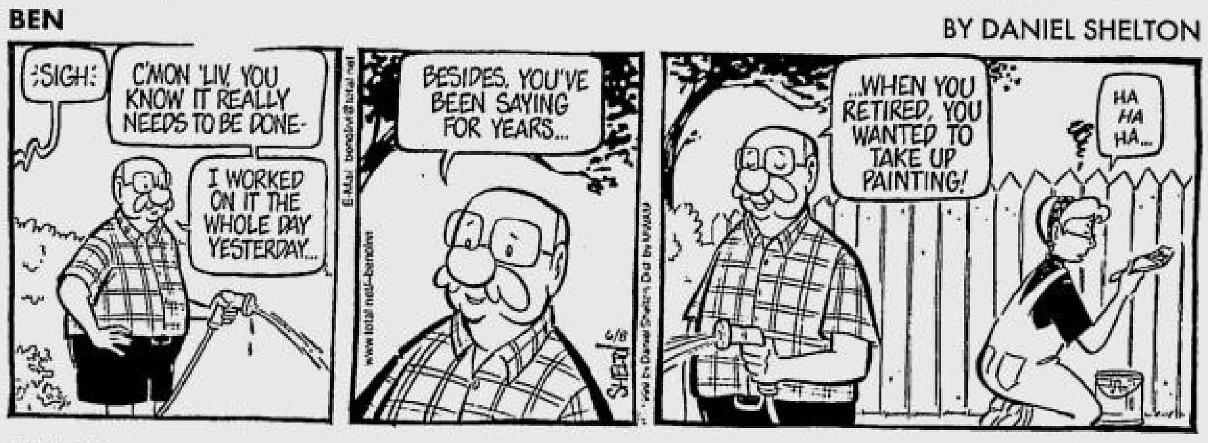
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SI GORIO!
OKEY HO BA SIYA?
NATAKOT LANG SI GORIO. MAKAKA-RECOVER DIN SIYA.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.26.6
b1gang.com.ph

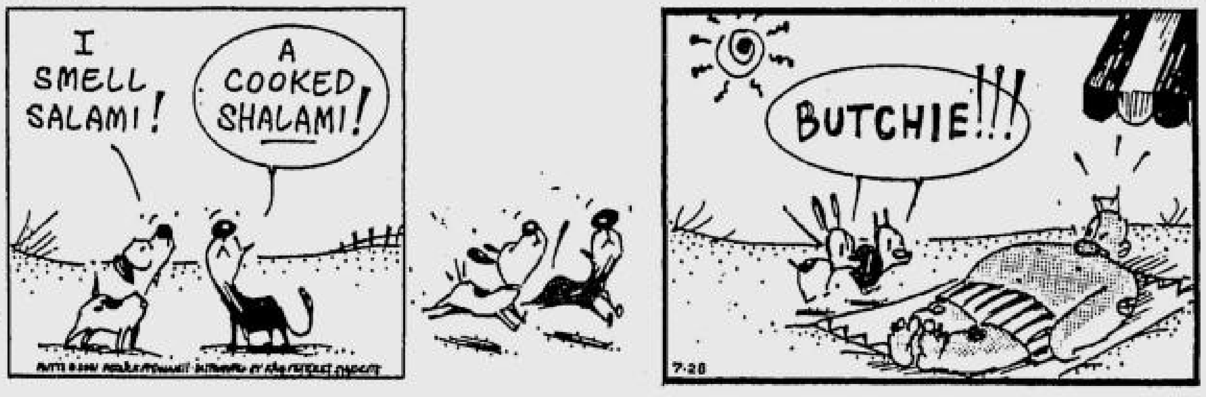
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


:SIGH:
C'MON 'LIV, YOU KNOW IT REALLY NEEDS TO BE DONE-
I WORKED ON IT THE WHOLE DAY YESTERDAY...
BESIDES, YOU'VE BEEN SAYING FOR YEARS...
6/8
SHELTON
...WHEN YOU RETIRED, YOU WANTED TO TAKE UP PAINTING!
HA HA HA...

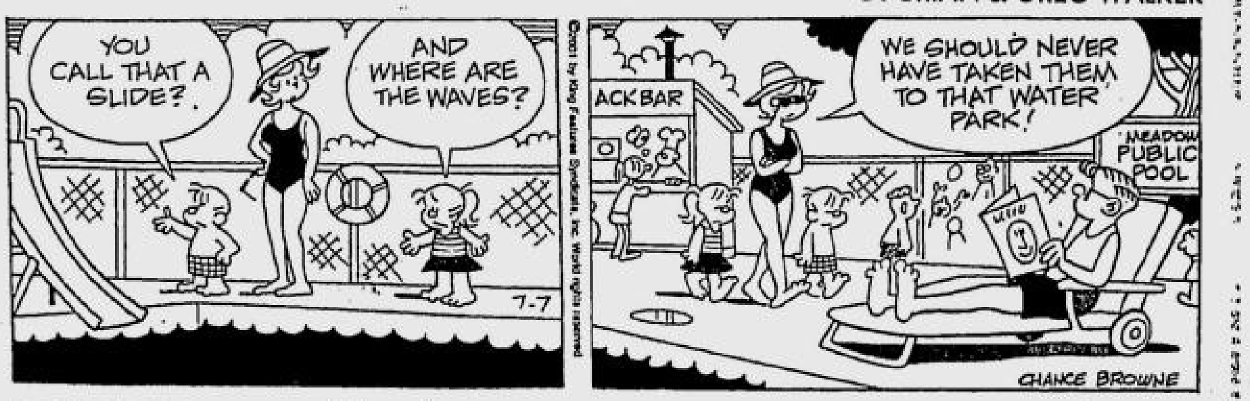
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I SMELL SALAMI!
A COOKED SHALAMI!
BUTCHIE!!!
7-28

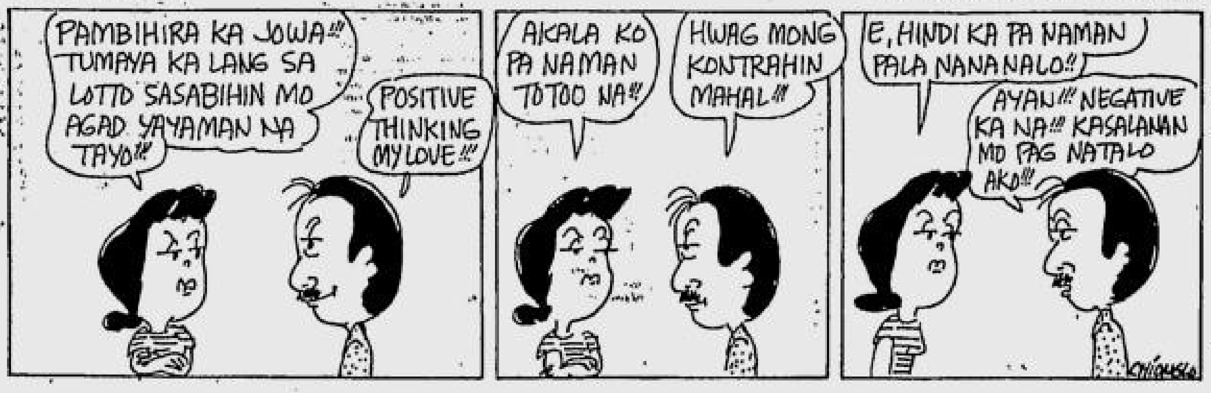
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


YOU CALL THAT A SLIDE?
AND WHERE ARE THE WAVES?
7-7
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
ACK BAR
WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN THEM TO THAT WATER PARK!
MEADOW PUBLIC POOL
CHANCE BROWNE

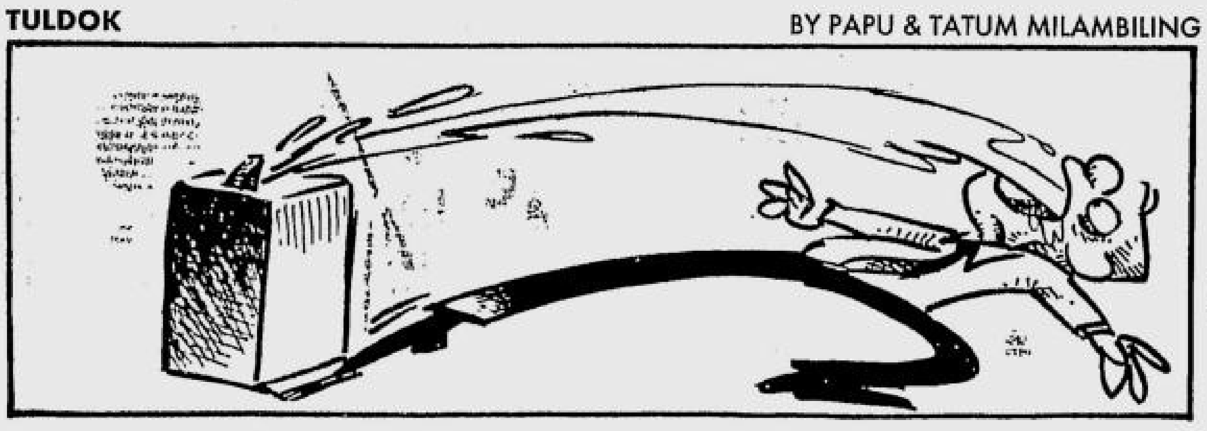
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PAMBIHIRA KA JOWA!!! TUMAYA KA LANG SA LOTTO SASABIHIN MO AGAD YAYAMAN NA TAYO!!!
POSITIVE THINKING MY LOVE!!!
AKALA KO PA NAMAN TOTOO NA!!!
HWAG MONG KONTRAHIN MAHAL!!!
E, HINDI KA PA NAMAN PALA NANANALO!!
AYAN!!! NEGATIVE KA NA!!! KASALANAN MO PAG NATALO AKO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



U.S. officials join investigation of crash that killed singer Aaliyah, eight others

By Ian James

NASSAU, Bahamas—The investigation into the plane crash that killed 22-year-old singer Aaliyah and eight others widened as U.S. officials said they would help determine what caused the plane to go down shortly after takeoff.

Clear weather

A team of investigators from the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration were to join the investigation on Monday, said NTSB spokesman Ted Lopatkiewicz.

The twin-engine Cessna carrying Aaliyah and her party crashed in clear weather Saturday on Abaco Island, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of Nassau.

Aaliyah and the others had come to the Bahamas to shoot a music video, authorities said. Their plane was bound for Opa-locka, Florida, when it went down roughly 200 feet (60 meters) from the end of the runway at Marsh Harbour airport.

On Sunday, Bahamian investigators searched through the wreckage for clues. Police Superintendent Basil Rahming said only that one of the Cessna's engines "apparently failed."

Aaliyah, who despite her young age already had two Grammy nominations, a platinum album and several high-profile acting credits under her belt, was killed instantly. Five others on board also died in the crash, while three more died later of their injuries, Rahming said.

Deep roots

Born in New York City but raised in Detroit, Aaliyah had deep roots in the R&B community. She later returned to live in Manhattan. Saturday's crash left fans, friends and family in mourning.

Aaliyah is survived by her mother, father and brother.

"Aaliyah's family is devastated at the loss of their loving daughter and sister," said a statement from the singer's publicist, PMK. "Their hearts go out to those families who also lost their loved ones."

Police identified the other passengers killed as bodyguard Scott Gallin, 41; Keith Wallace, 49, of Los Angeles; Douglas Kratz, 28, a representative for Virgin Records, and makeup artist Eric Foreman, 29, both of Hollywood, Calif.; Gina Smith, 29, also of Hollywood; Anthony Dodd, 34, of Los Angeles; and Christopher Maldonado, 32, of New Jersey. The plane's pilot, identified only as L. Maradel, also died.

The bodies were taken to the morgue at Princess Margaret Hospital in Nassau, where they were to be kept for relatives to help identify them, U.S. Embassy spokesman Brian Bachman said. Some were badly burned in the crash, authorities said.

Virgin Records offered to pay for the relatives to come, Bachman said. The company also was considering bringing the bodies to Miami to be met by family members there, but no arrangements have yet been made, he said.

Company

The Cessna 402B was registered to Skystream, a company based in Pembroke Pines, Florida. Company officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

Aaliyah's song "Try Again" earned her a Grammy nomination this year for best female R&B vocalist, and she was nominated in 1999 in the same category for "Are You That Somebody." In 1996, she released her second album, and the single "If Your Girl Only Knew" went double platinum.

Aaliyah made her feature acting debut in last year's film "Romeo Must Die."

She was born Aaliyah Haughton on Jan. 16, 1979, in Brooklyn. She struck a licensing deal as a teen-ager after her uncle, Barry Hankerson, formed Blackground Records.

Aaliyah went gold with her debut album, "Age Ain't Nothing But Number," in 1994—when she was 15—and benefitted from working closely with hip-hop artist R. Kelly. *AP*

A FAN of Aaliyah in the Bahamas mourns her death.

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Speed Walker

By Stephanie Scherer

WITH his latest movie, "The Fast and the Furious," racing past the $100 million mark at the box office, Paul Walker has a lot to celebrate. However, the recipient of the Hollywood Film Festival's Breakthrough Performance Award takes his success in stride.

"It's great," he says. "But the way I look at it, I guess it just means I'll get to work again."

Laid-back approach

Walker has always taken a somewhat laid-back approach to his career. After a successful stint as a child model and actor, he walked away from the business to travel. But when a casting director asked him to read for an episode of "Touched by an Angel" in 1996, Walker considered going back to the craft.

"He told me I was foolish for giving up on acting, and that if I were to start auditioning again, I'd be working all the time," Walker recalls. "Within a month, I got 'Pleasantville.'"

That film, in which he portrayed a 1950's high-school jock, was instrumental in rekindling Walker's interest in acting. "I was like a kid in a candy store on the movie," he says.

Teen flicks

"Pleasantville" led to more projects in 1999 including the teen flicks "Varsity Blues" and "She's All That." Soon, Walker had the lead in year's college-set thriller "The Skulls" and a Vanity Fair cover that declared him a member of young Hollywood.

His looks have earned him teen pin-up status, through Walker hopes they will also ensure his longevity. "I grew up on actors like Harrison Ford and Mel Gibson—guy's guys who girls think are hot. I think that's the trick, if you can bring the work."

Good, old reliables

WORD OF MOUTH
Sandy Daza

ONE of the most thrilling things I do is to try new dining places. I get excited when I get tips from friends or just hear about how great a certain place is. But there are moments when I refuse to experiment and take chances, and just play it safe and go to what I refer to as "my good, old reliables."

Depressed

I get really depressed when I eat something I don't enjoy. That sounds like an exaggeration, but ask other foodies and they'll explain what I mean.

I have my list of "good, old reliables." The *adobo* flakes, salmon pasta, the black pasta with crunchy fish filet of Katre along Sct. Rallos on T. Morato; crispy *buntot*, broiled tuna *panga* and blue marlin belly with garlic rice of Joseph and Jaymarks along Polaris in Makati, siopao and mami of Ma Mon Luk, and the Goi Ga chicken salad, golden pork, and Cambodia noodles of Pho Bac at Robinsons are sure anti-depressants.

But when I want to dine, be pampered and have a fine dining meal, I particularly love going to two places. Prince Albert of Intercon and Billy King's "Le Souffle."

Le Soufle is one of the oldest fine dining places and has kept up the consistency of its food over a decade now. They have places in Makati in the Fort and at the Ortigas area.

Pastry genius

I frequent the Ortigas branch, where good friend and pastry genius Jessie Sincioco does her fencing with the pans. Here, I have not tried anything I've disliked.

I love to start with their Salmon Salad Nicoisse, Feta Cheese Salad, Pan Fried Goose Liver Salad, seared scallops and pan fried goose liver and the salmon parmesan cheese spinach souffle.

For my main course, I enjoy their Roasted Sea Bass with mariner sauce, Baked salmon on Filo Pastry (I ask for bearnaise sauce on the side)and their fish and chips which I just discovered recently.

The Black Angus tenderloin steak is expensive but is the most tender and delicious piece of meat one will encounter in a lifetime. You should have it with pepper, bearnaise or wild mushroom sauce.

Medium rare

Please don't have it cooked more than medium rare. It is a sin to mistreat fine meat like this. The rack of lamb is also superb! For the not so adventurous, they can have the Chicken Cordon Bleu.

Jessie has many dessert items on the menu, order anything or ask her to suggest. Just to brief you: In international competitions, the Philippine culinary team brings Jessie as the competitor for the dessert category. So, anything on that menu is a winner.

If you see the business that Le Souffle is doing, you'd think the country wasn't experiencing a recession. And if I were given one wish, I'd wish that the success that Billy and Jessie are experiencing "contaminates" the whole country.

Check the place out, you'll understand why I crave so much for its cuisine.

Le Souffle is along Hanston st. parallel to Emerald ave., in the Ortigas area.

Happy Eating!

For comments, sandycooks@skyinet.net

PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL

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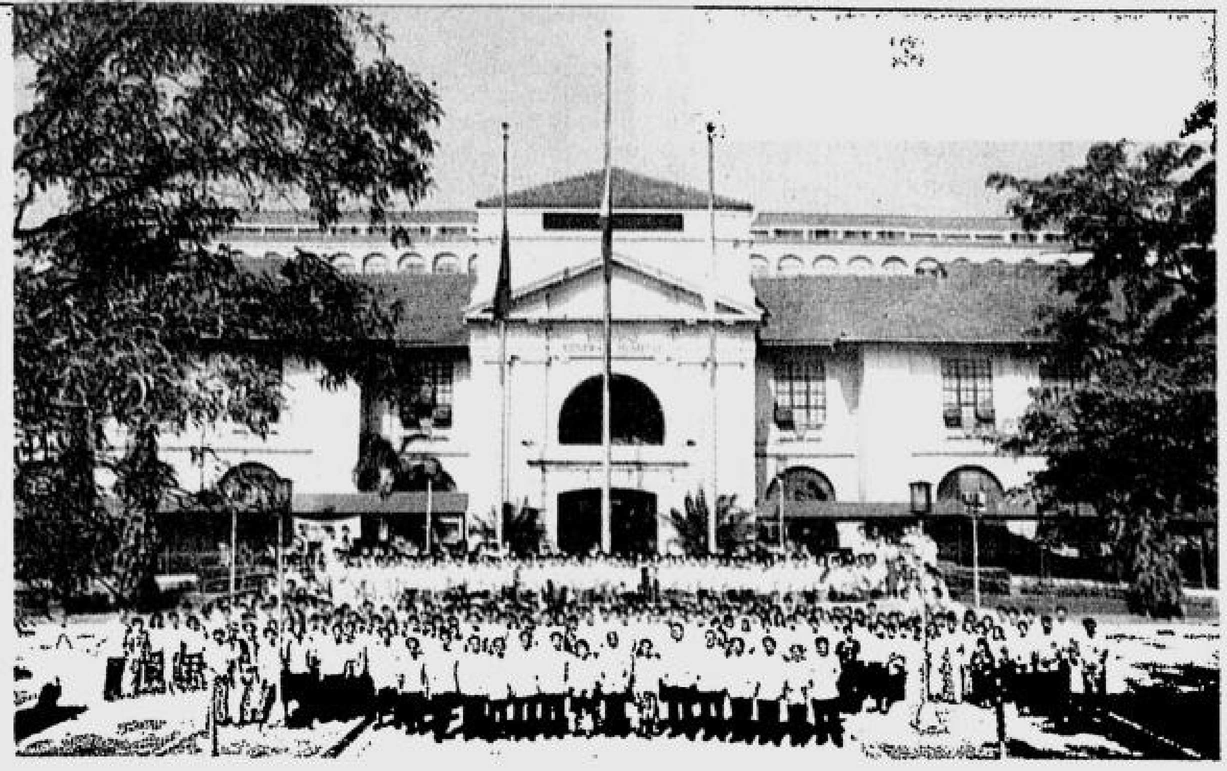
91 years of serving the poorest of the poor



THE PHILIPPINE General Hospital turns 91 today. In the eyes of those who have been under its care one time or another, the PGH has not been just "another government hospital."

It has been home, a refuge for the needy in times of distress—financial or otherwise.

Nine decades later, one of the country's premiere health care institutions sticks to its mission of caring for the sick, especially the needy: a mission that has made its name synonymous with quality health care for "the poorest of the poor."

"The reputation of the hospital in its service functions is second to none, particularly in the eyes of the needy," said PGH director Juan Ma. Pablo R. Nañagas. "For 91 years, it has been a refuge to them, especially in the face of economic challenges."

"How PGH continues to cope with the changing times is the one thing that sets it apart from other hospitals," he continued. "We have persevered to remain firm in our resolve to offer quality services for the poor, and for this alone, I believe there is much to celebrate."

Small pavilion

PGH started out in 1910 as a small medical pavilion in the University of the Philippines' College of Medicine. In nine decades, PGH has become the largest tertiary health care provider in the country.

. As an integral part of the national health care system, PGH has been responsive to the demands for better medical service, carrying itself through many difficulties without compromising the quality of its care. Today's extraordinarily difficult conditions, however, have made the search for new means of providing affordable medical services more daunting.

Indigents outnumber paying patients

At PGH, where indigents traditionally outnumber the pay patients, this challenge is more pronounced. The reclassification of indigent patients based on their financial capabilities has been envisioned to help distribute equitably medical services so that the poorest can continue to get maximum subsidy. However, securing financial resources to support health care delivery to the poor is in itself a great obstacle; and limits PGH's potentials to carry out its mandated role fully.

Medical care has indeed become a luxury. Despite this, however, poverty-stricken Filipinos continue to look up to PGH as the answer to their health care needs. How the hospital responds to the call of the poor is what the institution has been and will always be proud of– that in the darkest and most confused eras and among the most impoverished members of society, it has persevered.

The notion that PGH is a charity hospital is only part of the bigger picture. It has a socialized billing system that adjusts according to the patient's economic status. Operating a government hospital is costly, and indigents are not expected to shoulder these expenses. PGH looks for other sources of funding to subsidize its charity services. It has been continuously banking on networking as a major strategy for increased financial backing. Sources of health care financing are also tapped to relieve the hospital of some of its financial burden. Pooled resources and other opportunities may work to PGH's advantage, and this may be the direction the hospital will take to boost its competencies. Despite endless criticisms, many can still attest to the humanitarian service PGH provides in its full capacity.

Future prospects

In this age of globalization and commercialization of major public services, PGH aspires for an environment where it could pursue its commitment to the preservation of human life and the pursuit of academic and scientific excellence. In the face of the tremendously high cost of maintaining and operating the hospital, Filipinos can expect PGH to constantly contribute to the national effort towards development and productivity through further expansion and service upgrades.

In the next few years, the drawing power of PGH's reputation may be increasingly felt. The continuously expanding hospital is ready to take on new approaches. As it modernizes, PGH will adopt changes in service, training and research. PGH will likewise open its doors to other institutions to develop their capabilities to address health needs in their respective levels. This would, in turn, ease patient overcrowding in PGH service areas and will allow the hospital to concentrate on tertiary medical care. To address rising medical costs, a clear-cut and efficient mechanism would be put in place to allow it to perform its mandated roles more effectively.

Today, PGH seems to face far greater challenges than in any point of its history. Its leadership and strategic management hold the key to responsive programs. The drive to seek alternative—and innovative—financial resources is imperative in the search for true self-reliance.

Ultimately, it is the Filipinos themselves—young or old, rich or poor, man or woman—who hold the vision of a new PGH. The PGH can only become a showcase of Filipino medical expertise and the hope of the Filipino poor if all of us share in its dreams and visions, and put these into action in our own small way.

EVENTFUL MONDAY

DM Stroke Center, 3 other facilities to open

MONDAY, Sept. 3 will mark the first day for three new facilities of the Philippine General Hospital. It will also be a day for the opening of a medical exhibit and a variety show.

The Diosdado Macapagal Stroke Center will be inaugurated together with the new PGH Ear Unit and the newly renovated Employees' Fitness Center. The simultaneous openings are part of the highlights of the hospital's 91st anniversary celebrations.

The Center will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for the care and rehabilitation of stroke victims.

Health Secretary Manuel A. Dayrit and Pampanga Vice Governor and Presidential son Juan Miguel M. Arroyo will lead the inauguration rites. They will be assisted by PGH director Juan Ma. Pablo R. Nañagas, University of the Philippines president Francisco A. Nemenzo and UP Manila OIC chancellor Nestor S. Pareja.

A morning Thanksgiving Mass will officially begin Monday's anniversary celebrations. This will be followed by a flag ceremony that will be held at the PGH Quadrangle where UP and PGH officials, led by Nemenzo and Pareja, will serve as flag-raisers.

A brief program will then follow, with the PGH director giving the opening remarks and Nemenzo, Pareja and Dean Ramon L. Arcadio delivering their messages. Dayrit shall give the inspirational talk. A band and baton exhibition, as well as a special number from the UPCM choir will provide entertainment. Foundation Day Committee chair Dr. Mediadora C. Saniel, who also heads the PGH Department of Medicine, will deliver the closing remarks.

Monday will also mark the opening of a medical exhibit where the different PGH departments and hospital organizations will participate. To be held on the hospital's ground floor and open to the public, the exhibit promises to be informative and fun.

Capping the celebrations is an afternoon variety show billed "PGH *Noon Hanggang Ngayon*" showcasing the talent and creativity of the hospital staff. The show will present the hospital's history decade by decade.

The celebration of PGH's 91st anniversary actually began last month when various sports events were held on the first week of August. Hospital employees vied against each other in lawn and table tennis, billiards, chess and darts. The winners for each event received their awards yesterday, Aug. 31. The awards program was also highlighted by the conferment of service awards to PGH employees who have served the hospital for 20 years and more. Donors who have continuously supported the PGH also received citations in recognition of their valuable support to the hospital's mission.

Q&A WITH PGH DIRECTOR NAÑAGAS

The hospital of the 'masa' needs private sector support

SERVING the poor by providing them with affordable quality health care has always been *the* priority at the Philippine General Hospital. After all, when it first opened its doors on Sept. 1, 1910, it was mandated to operate as a public hospital principally for the poor. Today, as PGH steps gingerly into the 21st century, it remains staunchly committed to this primary task as reflected in the theme it has chosen for its 91st anniversary – "*Mula sa Masa, Para sa Masa*" (From the Masses, For the Masses).

However, much as it would want to address every medical need of every impoverished Filipino, the 91-year-old PGH is grappling with its greatest challenge. Where will it get the money to help its poor patients?

PGH director Dr. Juan Ma. Pablo R. Nanagas, in a recent interview, faces the question head-on. Here are excerpts:

This year's anniversary theme is *"Mula sa Masa, Para sa Masa."* Why was this theme chosen and what is its significance?

PGH was established in 1910 as a hospital for the poor. As we turn another milestone, we relive this important event in the history of public service by renewing our commitment to this noble mission. In the face of complexities and uncertainties, we aspire for an environment where every Filipino, most especially the poor, is accorded quality treatment in the true spirit of humanitarianism. We likewise owe it to those who will come after us, so that they may be increasingly confident in performing the same tasks we are now doing for our people.

What problems, if any, are being encountered by the hospital in the pursuit of this mission?

Our primary problem is funding. PGH, like other social institutions, continues to compete for scarce financial resources to be able to pursue its mandated goals of service, training and research. Government subsidy alone is not enough to allow us to operate at maximum efficiency, and, as the price of medical care escalates, we expect a continuing increase in demand for our services. With limited funding, we can only do so much. Central to our administration is the constant search for new sources of funds. We aspire for extra-government sources of funding not only for operations but for maintenance as well, and to enable us to keep up with the advances in medical technologies.

How do you intend to solve this problem?

It all boils down to the efficient management of meager financial resources. Our programs are significant, no doubt, but without the much-needed financial backing we cannot fully realize the desired results. As we look for newer sources of funding, we want to increase the involvement of the private sector in PGH initiatives.

If we are to continue operating in the 21st century, then we must consider 21st century management and resource generation. The desire to increase revenue is meant to produce more resources, which can redound to expanded services. There are many possible models of this coordination, some of which are already operative in the hospital. The traditional paradigm that government service has no competition is fast fading and the hospital must change its strategic thinking as well. Service standards that are customer-oriented must be considered even in a public hospital for it to survive. With a steady supply of resources, this is the direction we want to pursue.

Doesn't this run counter to the widely held view, especially among underprivileged patients, that PGH's services are free?

This is one of the most common misconceptions about PGH's services today. While it is true that the majority of our clients are poor, we must face the harsh reality that no medical service is cost-free. It will continue to be expensive, and unless we give due financial support to meet the demand for our services, we will continue to be constrained in whatever medical assistance we can offer to the poor segments of our society. However, we are already implementing a classification scheme based on the patient's capacity to pay, such that only true indigents are given free medical services. We have been doing this to optimize the quality of medical care we give our patients, particularly the underprivileged.

FIRST Gentleman lawyer Mike Arroyo turns over his donation to the PGH director.

What are your immediate and long-term plans for PGH?

Critical to the move of the hospital into the 21st century is the implementation of a computerization program. PGH, if it wants to remain a leader in health care, should develop external electronic links, both nationally and internationally. Such a move will enable it to share its expertise and multiply its benefits to more people.

The services the hospital offers must be considered products that have to be sold to a target clientele. To sell them, PGH must use the tools that are used in the business sector. This may mean better packaging, better marketing, sounder financial management, and a nationalistic and humanitarian focus.

We are also keen on strengthening our workforce by providing them with more opportunities for their personal and professional growth, as well as with the financial, medical and other benefits they surely deserve to get. Building core competencies is also one way of helping us compete in the future.

What is your overall vision for the hospital as it enters the 21st century?

Standing on the threshold of the 21st century, PGH hopes to strategically position itself as the finest public health care delivery system in an increasingly competitive economy. We will continue to build core competencies and employ strategic architecture and thinking which we hope to embed in the fabric of the whole organization. As a partner of the government in its various health care programs, PGH wants to be a significant driving force in the formulation of national health policies. Our focus is on development, and we want all stakeholders to be part of this process.

GMA lauds pro-poor programs

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal Arroyo exhorted the management and staff of the Philippine General Hospital to sustain the hospital's social service programs that benefit the poor, even as she pledged government support for the country's premiere health care institution on the occasion of its 91st foundation anniversary today.

In a congratulatory message, the President lauded the "Mula sa Masa, Para sa Masa" anniversary theme which, she said, "underscores your drive and dedication to continue providing the highest standards of medical treatment and care to our people, especially the marginalized sectors of our society."

Aware of the PGH's tremendous workload, Arroyo offered a "strategic partnership" between her government and the hospital to "provide impetus and dynamism to the common pursuit of quality health care for all Filipinos." She also added that the "fulfillment of total healthcare for our people enables them to reach their fullest potential as individuals and as members of our society."

Health Secretary Manuel M. Dayrit also commended the PGH for being "in the forefront of delivering globally competitive health care services directed to the poor and the underserved."

"The institution stands as a symbol of excellence that remains steadfast even in the face of globalization, political changes and budgetary cuts," he noted.

University of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo cited the PGH for maintaining its role as the country's premiere hospital for the people for the last 91 years. "Life itself depends largely on the accessibility and the quality of medical services, which the State has the undeniable duty to ensure for them," he stressed.

UP Manila chancellor Alfredo T. Ramirez also congratulated the PGH, citing in a message that it became one of UP's earliest units when it was founded in 1908.

Since then, Dr. Ramirez added, "it has metamorphosed into the biggest and the most modern government tertiary hospital in the Philippines. It has contributed immensely to sustaining the high standard of excellence of UP Manila's programs and is the most palpable manifestation of the University's pursuit of relevance."

Ramon L Arcadio, MD, MHPEd, professor and dean of UP-Manila College of Medicine, reiterated PGH's reason for being. "*Sa okasyong ito, higit pa nating pagtibayin ang serbisyong ito para sa bayan sapagkat bayan din ang pinagkakautangan natin ng ating pagkakatatag at pamamalagi.* (Let us strengthen this service for the Filipino, people, for it is the people whom we owe the PGH's birth and existence."

A long list of medical 'firsts'

PGH VISION

The PGH, globally competitive, committed to the health of the Filipino people through a system of networking, served by the competent, compassionate and ethical health professionals working as a team, shall be the center of excellence and leadership in health care, training and research that creates an Impact on health policies.

MISSION

The PGH, a globally competitive center of excellence and leadership, has for its mission:

- To render quality health care through effective teamwork;
- To train health care professionals to become competent, humane and ethical health care providers, educators and leaders
- To undertake relevant biomedical and health system researches which may serve as basis for health policies
- To develop a system of referral network and serve as center for complex health care problems;
- To attain self sufficiency in resources and
- To be the role model for health care delivery in the country

THE TRACK record began right in its first year of operations in 1910. Since then, the pioneering firsts have never actually stopped at PGH.

This is the stuff enviable achievements are made of. This is the "X-factor" that gives birth to legends. This makes institutions last 91 years, and even perhaps assure immortality in the annals of medicine.

In 1910, Dr. N. M. Saleeby performed the Philippines' first cystic goiter operation and Dr. John Dill, the first head of the hospital's Department of Surgery, did the country's first suprapubic cystolithotomy.

Also in 1910, the first Filipina physician, Dr. Honoria Acosta Sison, became a resident physician in obstetrics. It was also during this year that her first research paper titled "The Antepartum and Postpartum Care of the Parturient Women" was published.

In 1911, Dr. John R. Mcdill performed the first recorded abdominal hysterectomy. The first Filipino head of the Department of Surgery Dr. Potenciano Guazon performed the first mastectomy. A certain Dr. Quirino performed the first Wertheim operation for cancer of the uterus. The first autopsy on acute infantile beri-beri in the country was performed at the PGH pediatric clinic.

In 1912, the first caesarean section at the PGH was performed by Dr. Fernando Calderon, the first Filipino director of the hospital. In 1914, Dr. Reinhartt Rembe performed the first laryngofissure operation.

The following year, Dr. Jose Albert, in collaboration with Dr. Manuel Guerrero and an American researcher working in the Bureau of Science, demonstrated the curative value of tiki-tiki extract on two infantile beri-beri cases. Their medical research work won local and foreign recognition.

In 1919, Dr. Carmelo Reyes resected part of the chest wall of a 47-year-old laborer suffering from chondrosarcoma of the ribs. This was the first recorded thoracotomy in the country. In the same year, Guazon performed the first resection of the rectum with sphincter-saving operation on a 40-year-old female with rectal cancer.

Dr. Jose Eduque, a pioneer Filipino urologist, performed the first prostatectomy in 1920, while Dr. Aristeo Rizal Ubaldo performed the first intrascapular technique of lens extraction.

In 1923, Ubaldo partnered with Dr. A. S. Fernando to perform the first laryngectomy in the Philippines.

In 1927, the low-segment caesarean section for severe eclampsia and dystocia with closed cervix by Sison and the labyrinthectomy by Ubaldo and Dr. Vivencio C. Alcantara were introduced. Also, Dr. Baldomero Roxas performed the first pubiotomy and symphisiotomy.

In 1928, Dr. Jose Abuel, the first trained Filipino neurosurgeon, introduced ventriculography as one of the new diagnostic procedures for brain lesions. He also performed the first craniotomy for a subdural hematoma.

Abuel then performed the first abdominosacral resection of the rectum (Kraske) operation on a 28-year-old cook in 1932.

In 1935, a team composed of Eduque, Abuel, Pangilinan and Dr. Andres Zavalla performed the first modified synchronous combined abdominoperineal operation. Dr. Cecilio Franco performed the first vulvectomy and Spinelli's operation for chronic uterine inversion.

In 1938, Sison introduced the conservative treatment of eclampsia.

In 1941, the country's first Cancer Institute was inaugurated as part of PGH. In the same year, Zavalla did the first craniotomy for a brain tumor.

In 1945, the first locally performed cervicothoracic symphathectomy and the first operated case of carotic body tumor were reported. In the same year, endotracheal anesthesia and cyclopropane, which hastened advances in brain, chest and other complex operations were introduced.

In 1947, Dr. Geminiano de Ocampo introduced the use of akinesis and sutures, as well as the intrascapular delivery of the lens with capsule forceps and extraction of immature cataractous lens.

In 1948, Dr. Zavalla operated on a 31-year-old male for herniation of the intervertebral disc (laminectomy). This was the year when retropubic prostatectomy was introduced. The Urology Service, under Dr. Luis Torres Jr., also introduced transurethral prostatic resection, the use of the cystoscope and retrograde pyelography.

In 1949, Dr. Gervacio Santos Cuyugan did the first pneumonectomy for a large tuberculoma in the left lung of a nine-year-old boy. Dr. Ambrosio Tangco performed the splenorenal shunting operation for portal hypertension in a 22-year-old female. Dr. Victor Reyes, acknowledged as a pillar of Philippine neurosurgery, started craniotomy for excision of pituitary tumors.

In 1950, a team led by Dr. Cristino Lazatin, a pioneer cardio-thoracic surgeon in the Philippines, carried out the first successful litigation of a patent ducus arteriosus (PDA). He also led the team that performed the first transthoracic transdiaphragmatic esophagogastrectomy with an intrathoracic esophagogastric anastomosis on a 48-year-old female with epidermoid carcinoma of the distal third of the esophagus. Lazatin undertook the first thymectomy for a patient with myasthenia gravis.

In 1951, the country's first open-heart surgery was performed in PGH.

In 1952, the first successful closed mitral commissurotomy in the country was performed on a 49-year-old male with mitral stenosis. Dr. Victor Reyes started Posterior fossa exploration and ventriculo-peritoneal shunting in one sitting. Also, Dr. Emilio Horrileno, who also performed extended radical mastectomies, performed hemipelvectomy for a soft tissue sarcoma of the upper left thigh.

In 1955, Dr. Gumersindo Garcia Jr., assisted by Dr. Antonio Laboz, performed the first successful resection of an abdominal aortic aneurysm with a cadaver homograft replacement. The first successful peritoneoscopy and laparoscopy were performed by Dr. Horrileno.

In 1956, the first Nuclear and Radioisotope Laboratory in the Philippines was established.

In 1960, the first open-heart procedure under hypothermia was performed by a team led by Lazatin and Dr. Enrique Garcia.

In 1964, Dr. Bienvenido Diño and his colleagues started the use of fetal membrane homografts in treating burns. In the same year, the Medical Research Laboratory was established.

In 1968, Dr. Domiciana Dauis-Lawas started the first formal residency training program and a continuing pediatric course for general practitioners, with Dr. Perla Santos Ocampo as the program director. She also established the first malnutrition ward to serve the needs of the malnourished children in Metro Manila. That year, Dr. Enrique Esquivel Jr and his team performed the first kidney transplant in the Philippines. The historic operation paved the way for renal transplantation in the country.

In 1971, the country's first transphenoidal surgery for pituitary tumor was performed by Dr. Victor Reyes.

In 1976, Chancellor Alfredo Ramirez established the first Burn Unit in the country, with the vision of providing specialized care for patients suffering from all types of burn injuries. Early tangential excision and skin grafting was likewise started in the country.

In 1984, a team of thoracic and pediatric surgeons led by Dr. Alfredo Acosta separated Siamese twins joined at the chest and abdomen.

In 1989, Drs. Leopoldo Lazatin and Serafin Hilvano performed the first laparoscopic cholecystectomy in the Philippines.

In 1990, the idea of providing "Hospice, Palliative and Supportive Care" for patients going through illnesses that were chronic, debilitating and with short prognoses became a reality with the establishment of the Department of Family Medicine under its Family Health Care Program.

Today, 40 home care patients may be treated at any one time. A three-bed hospice unit at the Cancer Institute-Andres Soriano Jr. Cancer Center (CI-ASJCC) and a consulting service in the different PGH wards, complete with support groups, are now available. Starting with the CI-ASJCC and the different departments of the hospital, the PGH aims to forge partnerships with other donors and volunteers to make this service accessible to more patients and their families.

In 1993, PGH was the first hospital in the country recognized as "baby-friendly" by the World Health Organization.

In 1997, through the assistance of Senator Alberto Romulo and Rep. Rolando Andaya, PGH started the construction of the first Spine Center in the Philippines.

In 1999, the PGH Section of Hematology-Medical Research Laboratory became the first and, so far, only laboratory in the Philippines offering platelet aggregation tests for diagnostic purposes. The Department of Medicine pioneered the creation of Subspecialty Fellowship Training Programs in the country.

Early this year, PGH inaugurated the first Skin Bank of the Philippines.

> Some of the PGH 'firsts': the first open-heart surgery in 1951, the first RP hospital to be recognized as 'baby friendly' by the WHO, the first spine center, and the first skin bank in the country. In virtually every year since 1910, PGH has made headlines in its pioneering efforts toward the well-being of its patients

PGH HISTORY AT A GLANCE

1910	The Philippine General Hospital opens its doors to the public on Sept. 1 and is eventually linked to the College of Medicine, then the Philippine Medical School
1914	Dr. William Musgrave, Dean of the College of Medicine is designated division chief of PGH as it becomes a division of the Bureau of Health
1916-36	PGH is placed under the first Filipino administration of Dr. Felipe Calderon. He was also the dean of the UP College of Medicine. The decade is characterized by infrastructure construction.
1939	President Quezon transfers PGH from the Department of Public Instruction to the Office of the President of the Philippines. The Philippine President also entrusts to the dean of UPCM the general administration as well as the technical supervision and control of the hospital. Thus, Dr. Antonio Sison, the dean of UPCM, is appointed the director of the hospital
1947	By virtue of Executive Order No. 94, President Roxas transfers PGH to the University of the Philippines
1954	President Magsaysay separates PGH from the UPCM administratively. Thus, the new PGH director is appointed separate from the UPCM dean. This time, Dr. Florencio Quintos, head of the Department of Pediatrics, becomes the new director.
1967	The Health Sciences Center is established in the University by Republic Act No. 3163 on June 17
1977	The Health Sciences Center is recognized as an autonomous campus of the UP System on Oct. 28. It brings together all the health science units, including PGH, under one structure.
1981	First Lady Imelda R. Marcos commissions architect J. Ramos to undertake the masterplanning of the PGH renovation project.
1982	BOR decision to undertake the PGH project; authorized UP President Angara to negotiate with SSS for the P450-million loan
1985	The PGH Expansion and Renovation Project formally starts. Funds are released for the initial cost of the 7 story Central Block.
1986-89	PGH continues to receive support from the national government through the release of funds for project completion and also for the needed medical equipment.
1988	The PNB-PGH Branch is erected inside the hospital compound
1989	New OPD opens on April 17
1990	The hospital's 8-story Central Block building is completed
1991	The UP Board of Regents awards a citation to the PGH staff for their exemplary efforts in servicing the health care needs of the disadvantaged sectors of society.
1992	Salamin ng Bayan award is conferred on the hospital's Outpatient Department
1993	The PGH is recognized as the outstanding government institution in health by the Philippine Chamber of Health on Oct. 22.
	The "Baby Friendly Hospital Award" is given by the World Health Organization.
	Creation of Cancer Institute, independent from the Department of Radiology
1994	PGH is cited as one of the 33 Centers of Excellence by Senator Blas Ople
	The Jose Concepcion School for Chronically-Ill Children is inaugurated February. This is sponsored by the RFM Group of Companies and the CHILD Foundation.
	PGH Outpatient Department is given a "Salamin ng Bayan" award. It is adjudged as one of the outstanding government offices based on compliance with specific provisions of RA 6713, otherwise known as the "Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees"
	The Open Heart Program of the Division of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery is revived after a long hiatus.
1995	The PGH Bayanihan Multi-Purpose Cooperative is established in March.
1996	The First Emergency Medical Technicians Basic course for the ambulance crew of the PGH Emergency Medical Services System is conducted
1997	Inauguration of the Child Protection Unit on Jan. 22.
	PGH Spine Center is constructed
	The PGH Archives and Library is set-up
1998	The Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory is operationalized
	Approval by the BOR of the PGH Pay Parking Scheme
	Inauguration of the PGH Women's Desk on Nov. 30.
1999	Creation of the Department of Neurosciences
	Launching of the established networking program called "Ugnayan Para sa Kalusugan", an inter-agency referral system
2000	Inauguration of the Ear Unit of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology and Surgical Research Unit and Reading Room of the Department of Surgery, the first of its kind in the Philippines.
	The visit of Queen Sofia of Spain reaffirms the commitment of the Spanish government's assistance to PGH on a US$15-million soft loan to purchase modern equipment for the Department of Emergency Medical Services. Likewise, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Spanish government and UP concerning the development of the Jose P. Rizal Eye Center, a comprehensive facility for the diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases takes place.

IPMS keeps PGH equipment in prime working condition

FOR a public hospital with limited financial resources, acquiring the necessary biomedical equipment is only half the problem. Keeping the existing equipment in working condition is also a major concern.

The country's premier public hospital, the Philippine General Hospital has come up with an innovative solution to this problem. PGH's Integrated Preventive Maintenance System (IPMS) is a pioneering project the hospital is implementing in collaboration with two Italian groups. These are Arci Cultura e Svilupo (ARCS), an Italian non-government organization, and Metis, an Italian consortium that is acknowledged as the authority in putting up preventive maintenance systems for the biomedical equipment of public hospitals in Italy.

The system is currently being pilot-tested at the PGH Department of Pediatrics' Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Its primary objective is to maintain the biomedical equipment in these units in operating condition and preserve them to prolong their serviceability. In short, the goal is to keep them working at maximum performance, thereby, allowing the hospital to continue providing its patients with quality health care services.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

Educating the health care workers and the patients

AS A KEY segment of the University of the Philippines educational system, the PGH has managed to sustain its role as the leading training institution for the conduct of undergraduate and post-graduate training programs such as internship, residency and post-residency and fellowship programs. For those who have undergone training in its various units and departments, the hospital has provided them the technical competence to cope with the various health problems that require higher levels of medical intervention and health care specialization.

Besides training the health care givers, the hospital provides health education to its beneficiaries, the patients. PGH recognizes the World Health Organization (WHO) Ottawa Charter (1986) declaration that an educated patient is the doctor's best partner in providing cost-efficient, effective health care and in avoiding illness through preventive care. Heeding the call to expand beyond the traditional role of the hospitals as providers of solely curative services, the different departments and units of PGH have devised ways of conducting various patient education programs.

For instance, the Department of Medicine has been host to several patient education programs including:

- Diabetes Education Classes/ Support Group
- 140/90 Club
- Lupus Club/Rayuma Komiks
- Chronic Renal Disease Class
- Residents' Patient Education Classes
- Samahang Langhap Ginhawa: Hika Ko, Kaya Ko
- Comprehensive Care Program for COPD Patients (CARE)
- Smoking Cessation Program

All these programs are being offered for free and are currently being funded by external sources.

Relative to these programs, the Section of Pulmonary Medicine sponsored the World TB Day Celebration last March 24 and, in coordination with WHO, participated in the World Stop Smoking Day last May 31. In both occasions, the section prepared activities and lectures with the intention of increasing the awareness of residents and fellows with regards to the TB and smoking problem in our country. A symposium was held on both days with the aim of increasing the awareness of concerned personnel regarding hospital guidelines designed to protect employees from acquiring work-related TB infection and on Smoking cessation strategies and counseling practices. Booths and reading materials were also prepared to strengthen the campaign for information dissemination among patients and their families. In December this year, the section will spearhead the World Asthma Day.

These health promotion activities have been mostly limited to inpatients and those on outpatient follow-up. There is admittedly, no provision for continuing education for patients unable to follow-up at the Department of Medicine outpatient clinics. The department's efforts have also been mostly limited due to logistic and financial problems.

Recognizing these limitations and willing to take on the challenge of a comprehensive patient education program encompassing outpatient care, inpatient hospital care and community-based follow-up care, the Department of Medicine wishes to bring to fruition, a comprehensive hospital-based patient education program. Such a program is expected to decrease hospital stay, readmission, morbidity and mortality rates as well as optimize follow-up care. As a whole, comprehensive patient education program can only lead to better quality of care and better quality of life for the patients served by the Department of Medicine. We invite you to become our partners in this worthwhile endeavor!

The Division of Neurosurgery initiated the "Think First" program in the management of neurotrauma at the preventive level. The program holds organized forum discussions on the precautions and ways of decreasing the risk of head and spinal cord injuries at home, in the work place, in school or in recreational areas.

The Department of Emergency Medical Services (DEMS) conducts several short-course training programs in Basic Life Support (BLS) course and advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) course regularly. All DEMS nurses and residents are properly trained in BLS and ACLS. The department has trained the entire batch of 2000 – 2001 UP-PGH interns as BLS providers, the first time that all interns of PGH have been certified in BLS.

The Department of Pediatrics initiated the following education programs, which contribute to the department's holistic strategy in providing patient care.

- Silahis Ng Kalusugan (School For The Chronically Ill) - Since its formation in 1966 through the efforts of Dr. Perla Santos Ocampo, the school has enrolled more than a thousand students (30-50 students per school year) with chronic illnesses ranging from cardiac to renal to developmental.
- Bantay Barangayan – This flagship program aims at teaching parents and other care givers the proper care of their patients as well as providing psychological support mechanisms to relieve them of some of the stresses of having a sick child.
- Tatsulok 2 – Following a successful implementation in the province of Batangas, Tatsulok 2 is a community-oriented project aimed at upgrading the knowledge of barangay health workers in a selected community.
- Teen-Mom Program – This program aims to teach teenage mothers to cope with the realization and responsibility of being a young mother.

The Department of Nursing, in line with its primary function of educating students and practitioners of nursing, medicine and other health disciplines, has been into the following services/programs:

- Client Education Forum—A gathering of the patients' relatives to discuss and acquire simple, selected health care skills.
- Guided PGH Educational Tours—Specific groups and students of colleges of nursing are acquainted with PGH facilities, services and equipment.
- Mentorship Program In Research—PGH clinically-based nurses are enrolled in the masteral degree program on thesis writing to enhance research work on special projects.
- Advancement Program In Clinical Nursing (APCN)— A six-month program to develop competencies in five levels: novice, advanced beginner, competent, proficient and expert, progressing from simple to complex nursing situations towards the development of nurse clinicians and clinical nurse specialists.
- Clinical Observership—Established for nurses who have been out of clinical practice to reorient them on nursing roles and functions.
- Progressive Clinical Nursing Program (PCNP)—A structured orientation and clinical rotation program for the development of clinical competencies in patient care areas through progressive learning activities.
- Quality Assurance Program (QAP)—Activities of monitoring, evaluation and interdepartmental collaboration to ensure quality nursing care.
- Skills Enhancement Programs—Basic Intravenous Therapy Nursing and Update; Enterostomal Therapy Nursing; Diabetes Nursing; Basic Life Support; and Basic ECG (Levels I – III)
- Clinical Enhancement Programs—A structured learning experience designed to provide nurses with training opportunities to observe and perform actual nursing functions.

The Department of Family and Community Medicine was the first to introduce family medicine residency program, family and community health course for the undergraduate and Master of Science in Clinical Medicine – Family Medicine. It also pioneered in family health care program, counseling, hospice and palliative care, evidence-based medicine and quality assurance.

Hospice and Palliative Care—This program is a collaborative effort of the Department of Family and Community Medicine and the Philippine Cancer Society. It primarily aims to provide a holistic support system for patients with chronic and terminal illness and their family. This support system includes pain and symptom-control, emotional, psychological, spiritual, educational and practical assistance.

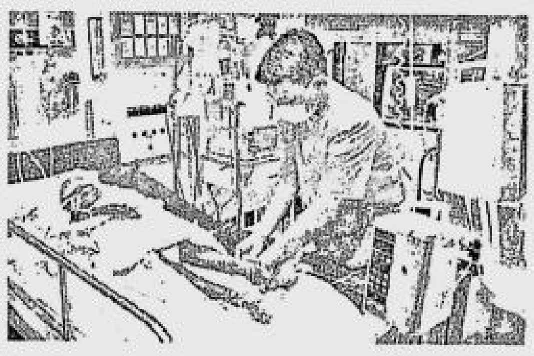
Counseling—Previously a part of hospice and palliative care, the program was separated from its mother unit recently. It is offered to patients and their families every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the counseling room of DFCM, OPD. Services offered include individual counseling, marital counseling, family meetings.

National Center for Quality Assurance in Family Medicine—One of the distinct achievements of the department is the application of evidence-based medicine and quality assurance activities in residency training and the undergraduate program. Together with the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) the department has organized a national network for quality assurance in family medicine.

Consultancy—Having been gifted with a set of consultants who have gained various expertise in the different areas relevant to family medicine such as research, counseling, hospice and palliative care and community medicine, the department offers consultancy services in these areas.

Master of Science in Clinical Medicine-Family Medicine (MScCMFM)—This is a new track program of the PGH College of Medicine in response to the increasing demands of Family Medicine practitioners for further academic and research improvement in the Philippines and the Asia Pacific Region.

Millions of patients saved; millions of lives changed



THE Philippine General Hospital evokes different meanings in the lives of different individuals.

It stands for quality medical care to the sick. It gives opportunities for quality training to the medical and allied health students. It is a service abode that enables donors to attain self-fulfillment by providing help and assistance to those in need. For the government, it is an effective component of the country's health care system. And PGH has always been the one that renders high quality service to the Filipinos.

For Jesus, an 18-year-old engineering student, PGH is the hospital that gives hope to charity cancer patients. "*Ang* PGH *ang nagbigay sa akin ng pag-asa na mabuhay* (PGH gave me hope that I would live)"

On February 2001, after being diagnosed of having leukemia, Jesus had to stop schooling. Aware of his financial status and the high cost of health treatment, he lost all hope of being able to be a normal teenager again. He thought that with his sickness, he only had a few months to live.

A native of Bicol, he came to Manila with his father to avail of the good and affordable medical services offered by PGH. With the hospital's first-rate doctors, Jesus' deteriorating health was eventually restored. He is now in the consolidation stage of treatment after undergoing chemotherapy sessions. Happy and grateful, Jesus is confident that PGH doctors will eventually succeed in keeping his sickness in check. He hopes that next semester, he will be going back to school to finish his college degree in computer engineering.

Aling Leonila, a 57-year-old widow and mother of three, had to stop working due to acute pancreatitis. She credits her new life to PGH for the excellent medical intervention that saved her. After going through rigorous treatment at the charity ward, her condition improved. She believes that if not for this charity hospital she will not be alive today.

Mang Pepito, father of four, had to stop working due to diabetes. His children were forced to give up their schooling to make way for the expensive medicines they had to prioritize.

He tearfully thanks PGH and the Sagip Buhay Foundation of the Department of Medicine. His hand was saved from being amputated.

Many Filipinos can identify with these familiar stories. To them, PGH is the refuge for the ailing, underprivileged Filipinos. For the millions of patients saved, all they say is "*Maraming salamat po sa serbisyong ibinigay! Maraming salamat sa mga doktor na walang sawang ginagampanan ang kanilang tungkulin.*"

To the donors whose assistance significantly eased the patients' financial burden, PGH is a place for charity work. Various volunteer groups are offering free medicines to charity patients, financial aids and other forms of support services. These volunteers touched and made a difference in the lives of these patients. Their volunteerism also awakened their consciousness to the realities of the world, making them socially responsible.

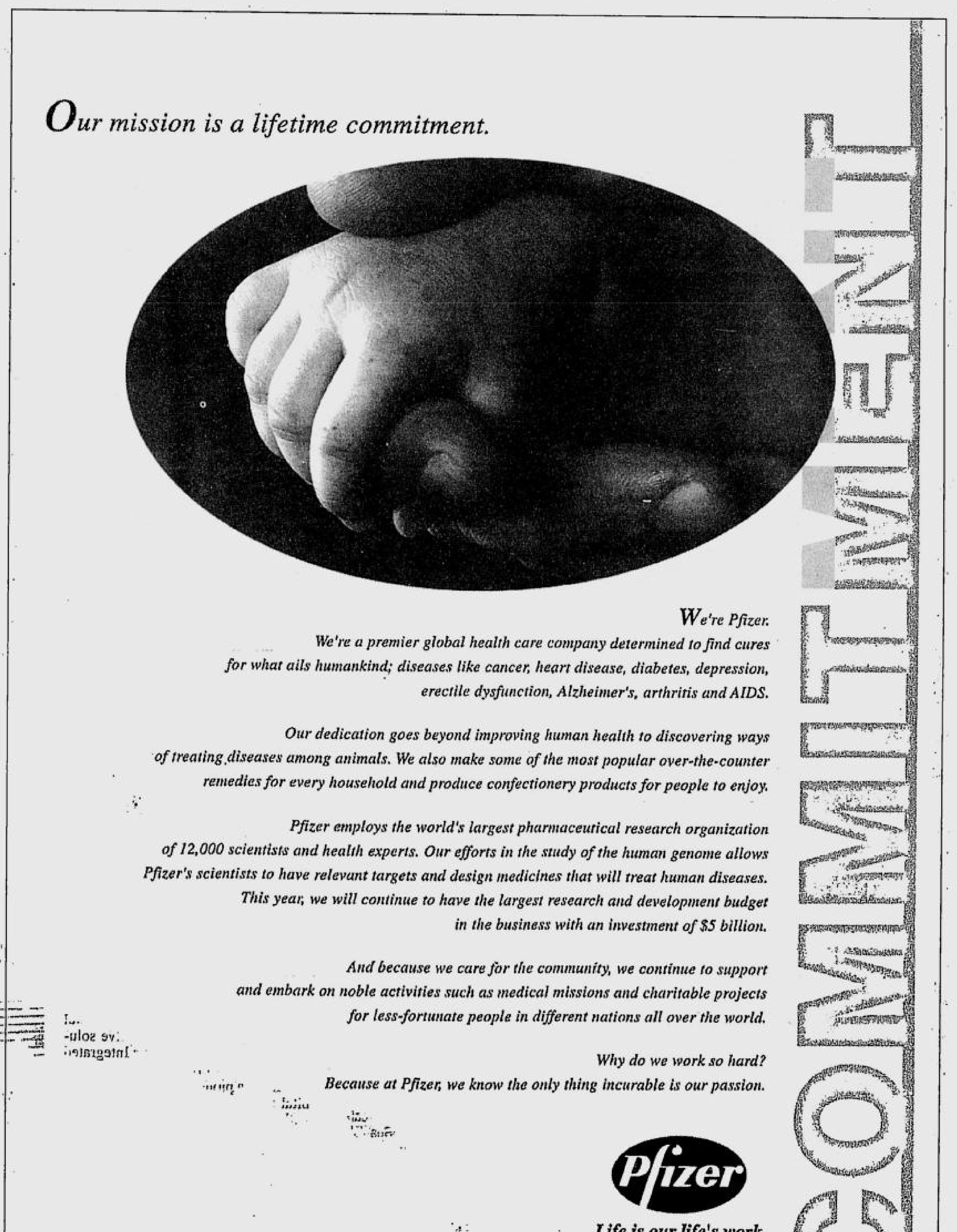
"We do not get paid for volunteering to go to PGH every Tuesday but our rewards come from the joy in the patients' and their families' faces whenever we hand them the much needed medicines." This was the statement made by the volunteers of Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran, a ceaseless donor of PGH for the past 14 years. Teresita Ang Sy of Kaisa mentioned that is is only in PGH – a state-owned hospital which serves the poorest of the poor - where they can be assured that they can reach out to the broadest group of beneficiaries.

Robert Go, president of Chi Liam Tong Charity Foundation (Chi Che Tong) who has been donating for the charity patients of PGH for many years, sees PGH as an institution manned by people who have a strong sense of service. This service atmosphere of the hospital encourages his group to give more donations and assistance to the charity patients.

Indeed, PGH provides the avenue for many people to show their social commitment, and the opportunity to realize their dreams and aspirations by helping provide the patients, particularly the needy, excellent health care.

Among the key leaders and officials who have given significant donations to PGH include First

MILLIONS/ G4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PGH spearheads networking program for better health care services delivery

THE PGH leadership is constantly driven to action to meet the needs of its ever-growing constituency

RANDY HORMILLOSA

WITH its "Admit All Policy," the Philippine General Hospital attracts a seemingly endless stream of patients from the different parts of the country seeking various kinds of medical attention and health care services. While this is certainly in line with its mandate to serve the public, particularly the needy, it puts the hospital and its staff under constant pressure to implement the plan to establish PGH as the country's leading provider of tertiary health care.

Tertiary health care refers to levels of diseases which seriously threaten the individual's health and require highly technical and specialized knowledge, facilities and personnel. In contrast, primary health care services refer to those rendered to a person in fair health with a disease in the early symptomatic stage. These services are provided by the local health centers and family physicians. In secondary health care, the patient is in the symptomatic stage of disease which requires moderately specialized knowldge and technical resources for adequate treatment.

In a bid to more effectively serve the greatest number of patients needing medical attention, PGH has spearheaded the establishment of a networking program called "Ugnayan Para Sa Kalusugan." For the hospital, the program's main goal is to decongest it of secondary and primary cases so it could focus on the delivery of tertiary health care. On the other hand, the program's broader objectives are the following:

- To link the patient-consumers of health care to the appropriate health service providers and resources within the network;
- To ensure continuity of care from one health service resource/facility to another; and
- To maximize the utilization of existing health agencies and personnel.

To further strengthen the system, a Networking Task Force, composed of regional and city health officers from Region IV and the cities of Manila, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa, has been created with PGH as the lead agency. In the past, the health care network in these areas has been plagued by such problems as poor inter-agency referrals, absence of a systematic coordination system and the lack of information dissemination among the local health centers. With the task force scheduled to meet every quarter, an effective inter-agency referral system is expected to be put in place.

With the establishment of a working networking system, patients can be assured of receiving the best quality care from participating health facilities. This undertaking is expected to pave the way to the full optimization of various clinical health facilities. At the same time, health workers will be given more training opportunities in their respective areas of specialization.

3 specialty centers to lead fight against cancer, stroke, blindness

THE fight against three of the most serious diseases afflicting Filipinos today will soon switch to high gear with the opening of three specialty centers within the Philippine General Hospital complex. These are the National Center for Cancer Control, the Diosdado Macapagal Stroke Center and the Jose Rizal Eye Center.

These three specialty clinics will use the latest medical innovations and technology in the treatment of cancer, stroke and blindness. Once they begin operating, victims of these diseases – including the underprivileged sick who make up the majority of PGH's patients – can be given the best medical treatment currently available.

These three specialty centers are expected to further enhance the reputation of PGH as a center of excellence in medical and health care services. More importantly, they will allow the hospital to carry on its great tradition of humanitarian service which, over the last 91 years, has become legendary.

The National Center For Cancer Control

In recent years, the PGH Cancer Institute has been focusing on providing total care and comfort to cancer victims. This includes not only complete and reliable treatment for the malignant disease, which was the Institute's initial objective laid down many decades ago, but the reduction as well of the patients' physical and emotional pain, together with the enhancement of their families' ability to cope with tragedy.

This new focus has led the Institute to go beyond merely providing care and comfort against cancer, to study its causes and to devise the best methods of prevention and treatment in the Philippine setting. With the support of the national government, the Institute continues to pursue the vision of serving as the national standard center for the control of cancer and a model facility for early detection, treatment and quality cancer care. Aside from being a national tertiary referral center, it is also committed to becoming a Cancer Research Management and Resource Center that will spearhead the development of researches with significant implications.

The Diosdado Macapagal Stroke Center

The latest figures from the Department of Health show that diseases of the vascular system, which include stroke, is the second leading cause of death in the Philippines. The establishment of a specialized medical unit where stroke patients can be admitted to reduce the risk of death and disability is envisioned to be the most effective treatment strategy against the disease.

PGH's Department of Neurosciences has conceptualized a multidisciplinary national stroke center that can serve as the lead institution in managing stroke care, as well as the center for training and research. In line with this, PGH, with the support of the First Gentleman, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, has set up the Diosdado Macapagal Stroke Center which will be inaugurated on Monday, Sept. 3, as one of the highlights of the hospital's 91st anniversary celebrations.

The Jose P. Rizal Eye Center

As a key player in the visual eye care field, PGH, through its Department of Opthalmology and Visual Sciences, has continuously responded to the growing clamor for the development and implementation of various visual eye health care and training programs.

The department has embarked on a development project designed to improve the delivery of more adequate visual/eye care in the country. A vital aspect of this endeavor is the establishment of a specialty center where optimum expert visual/eye care can be provided to all kinds of visual/eye illnesses with the application of the latest technology available.

Fortunately, PGH was able to ink a partnership with the Spanish government to pursue this vision. Now on its planning stage, the Jose Rizal Eye Center will be the first of its kind in the Philippines, another milestone in the glorious history of the country's premier tertiary hospital.

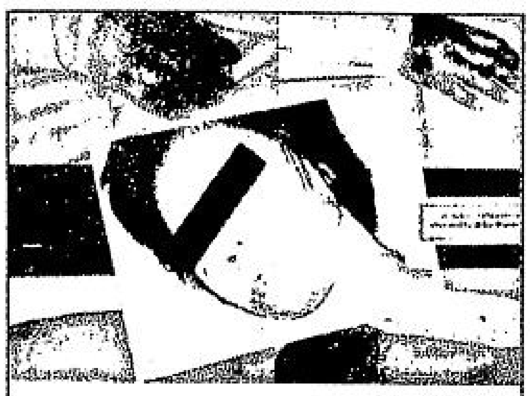
TRUE to the PGH tradition of keeping up with the technology of the times, the PGH billing section recently developed its own in-house application system with the help of The Leverage System & Technology Inc. and Columbia Computer International Corp. Acer Computer Phils. supplied the computers for the system.

ADOR AUSTERO

Millions of patients . . . (From page G3)

Gentleman lawyer Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, Vice President Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr., Senators Franklin M. Drilon, Loren Legarda-Leviste, Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., Joker Arroyo, Rodolfo Biazon, Renato L. Cayetano, Juan M. Flavier, Gregorio B. Honasan, Robert S. Jaworski, Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr., Blas F. Ople, Sergio R. Osmeña III, former Senators Francisco S. Tatad and Wigberto E. Tañada, National Security Adviser and former Parañque Rep.Roilo Golez, Manila Rep. Joey D. Hizon, Cavite Rep. Napoleon R. Beratio and Cavite Governor Ayong S. Maliksi.

The other donor-organizations and individual donors include the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. (for Don Miguel Aboitiz), Lualhati Foundation Inc., Anonymous Donors c/o Dr. Ramon Antonio Lopa, Mary Co Lim Memorial Foundation Inc., PGH Chaplain Group, Philippine Band of Mercy, Philippine Rotary Pacemaker and Heart Valve Bank of Heartbeat International, Friends of PGH (Carmelita E. Salvador, president), PGH Auxiliary Board (Agnes Essem Perez. president), Ramon Tulfo and Ana Co Puno.



PGH provides haven for women victims of violence

THE PHILIPPINE General Hospital is looking for private sectors partners in a worthwhile project: the PGH Women's Desk.

The PGH Women's Desk is envisioned to become a one-stop service area for women victims and survivors of violence where the healing and recovery process will be facilitated. The Desk, whose initial funding came from the CDF of former Senator Orly Mercado, is now raising more funds for additional facilities. The PGH Women's Desk is a project on Violence Against Women (VAW) based at the Philippine General Hospital.

Since its inception in March 1998, the PGH Women's Desk has served about 2,000 women survivors of violence.

The PGH Women's Desk is a crisis center for women victims of violence classified as physical abuse, rape/sexual assault, psychological abuse, neglect, and combinations thereof. It is aimed at delivering comprehensive, gender sensitive and holistic services to all women survivors who seek consultation at the hospital.

It also organizes multi-disciplinary teams consisting of physicians, social workers, nurses, psychologists, legal and paralegal counselors and members of the police force within the hospital. These teams are involved in social mobilization and networking so that other health-related needs of women-victims of violence (like shelter, counseling, and legal advice) could be referred to government agencies, NGOs and other partners in the community.

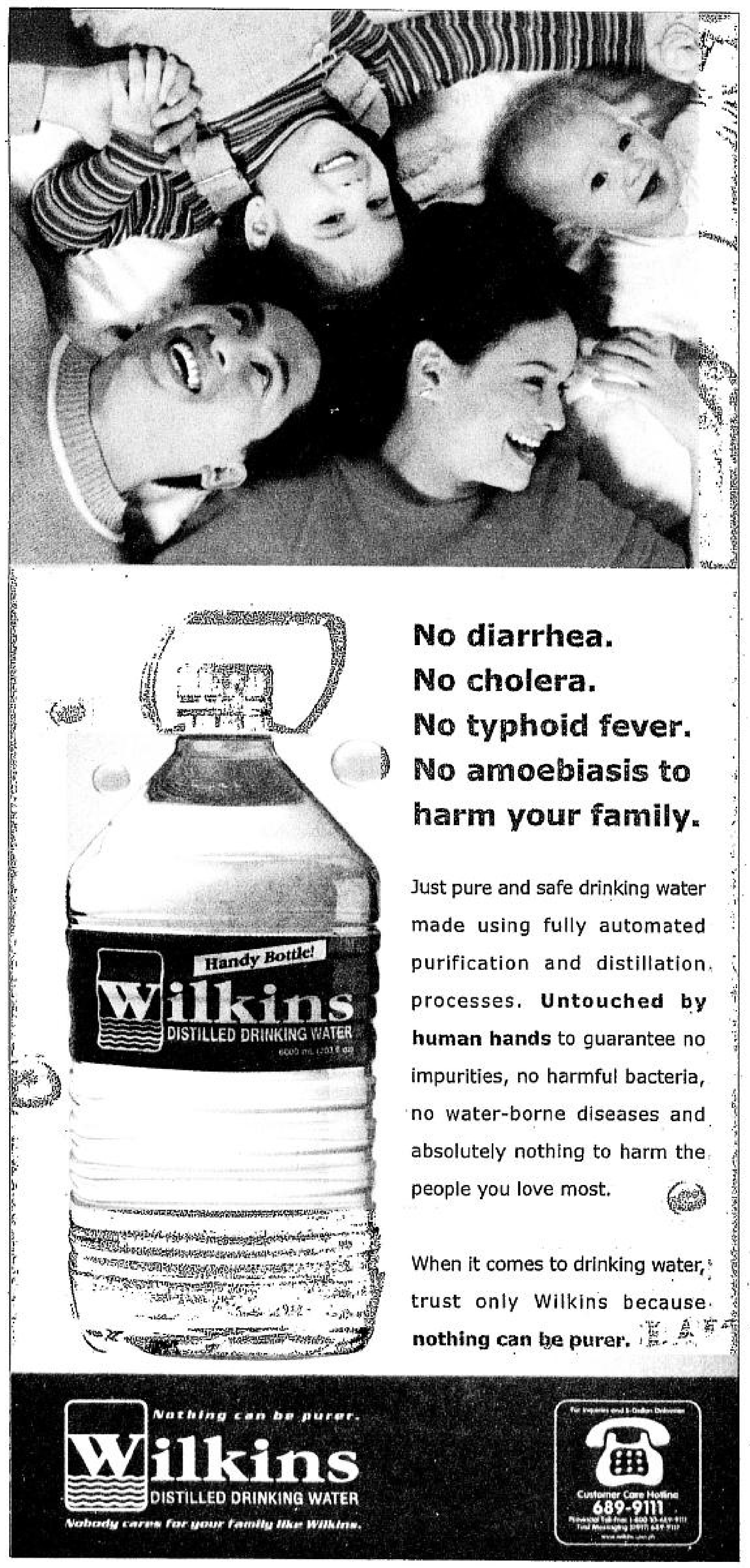
Through the support provided by the United National Fund for Population (UNFPA) in 1991, the PGH Women's Desk was able to prepare a Training Manual and Hospital Protocol and Guidelines for Health Professionals. It is a multi-disciplinary model for hospital-based health professional in the management and prevention of violence against women.

The Department of Health, under the Women's Development and Reproductive Health Program, regularly sends doctors from its different hospitals to the PGH Women's Desk for training on management of VAW cases and for institutional capability building. It also extended orientations and trainings on VAW to selected personnel from several other government agencies such as the Department of Interior and Local Government, Philippine National Police, Department of Foreign Affairs as well as schools and universities such as Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila College of Social Work, Far Easter University's College of Medicine and Nursing.

The PGH Women's Desk has been instrumental in the formation of task forces on VAW in the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Cagayan Valley, Quirino and Ilocos Norte in both the provincial and regional levels. It provided training and seminar workshops to its health workers and other stakeholders in the community like the barangay officials, DECS, PNP, NBI and other representatives from various agencies including NGOs.

Its consultancy staff forms part of the Technical Working Group of the Women's Legal Bureau (RAJCA Project) now working on a training manual for the Judicial Academy, prosecutors, and law enforcers on addressing rape in the judicial system.

On the home front, it provides VAW and Gender Sensitivity Orientation to resident physicians of the different clinical departments where patients come and consult for various symptoms and illness which are VAW-related.



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Solvay Pharma Inc. Phils.
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December 1950

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Maraming contest sa Page 3! Dali

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Astronomers Discover Solar System

LOS ANGELES—Astronomers have found the first solar system outside our own where multiple planets travel round the same star in circular orbits.

"It's heartwarming to find a planetary system that finally reminds us of our solar system," said astronomy professor Geoffrey Marcy, a member of the University of California at Berkeley team that made the discovery..

The astronomers announced the discovery of the second planet orbiting the star 47 Ursae Majoris on Wednesday.

Most of the roughly 70 planets found so far outside our solar system travel in tight, erratic orbits around their stars.

But the two planets around the star 47 Ursae Majoris both travel in nearly circular orbits at a distance that, in our solar system, would place them beyond Mars but within the orbit of Jupiter..

"When we discovered the first planet around 47 Ursae Majoris five years ago, I never dreamed that we would find yet another planet orbiting the same star," Marcy said.

The two planets—one 2.5 times the size of Jupiter, the other three-quarters as large—orbit a star in the Big Dipper, or Ursa Major, constellation. The star is about 51 light-years from Earth. ***AP***

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

WORLD SCOPE

Livermore, USA
Albuquerque, USA
Washington,USA
Washington,USA

Giant Supercomputer

SYSTEM administrator Steve Marchi opens the back door of one node of ASCI White, the world's most powerful computer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. ASCI White contains 8,192 microprocessors, is capable of 12.3 trillion operations per second. Sadly, this computer will be used for less noble purposes: to simulate nuclear weapons tests. *AP*

Stem Cell Research

US PRESIDENT Bush poses for a picture with Cody Unser at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Cody has transverse myelitis, a spinal cord disease that causes paralysis. Cody thanked Bush for his recent decision to allow limited government funding for stem cell research which may help find a cure for her condition. Stem cells are found during the early stages of development of a fertilized egg cell. They are capable of developing into new tissues or even new organs. *AP*

Smithsonian on the Web

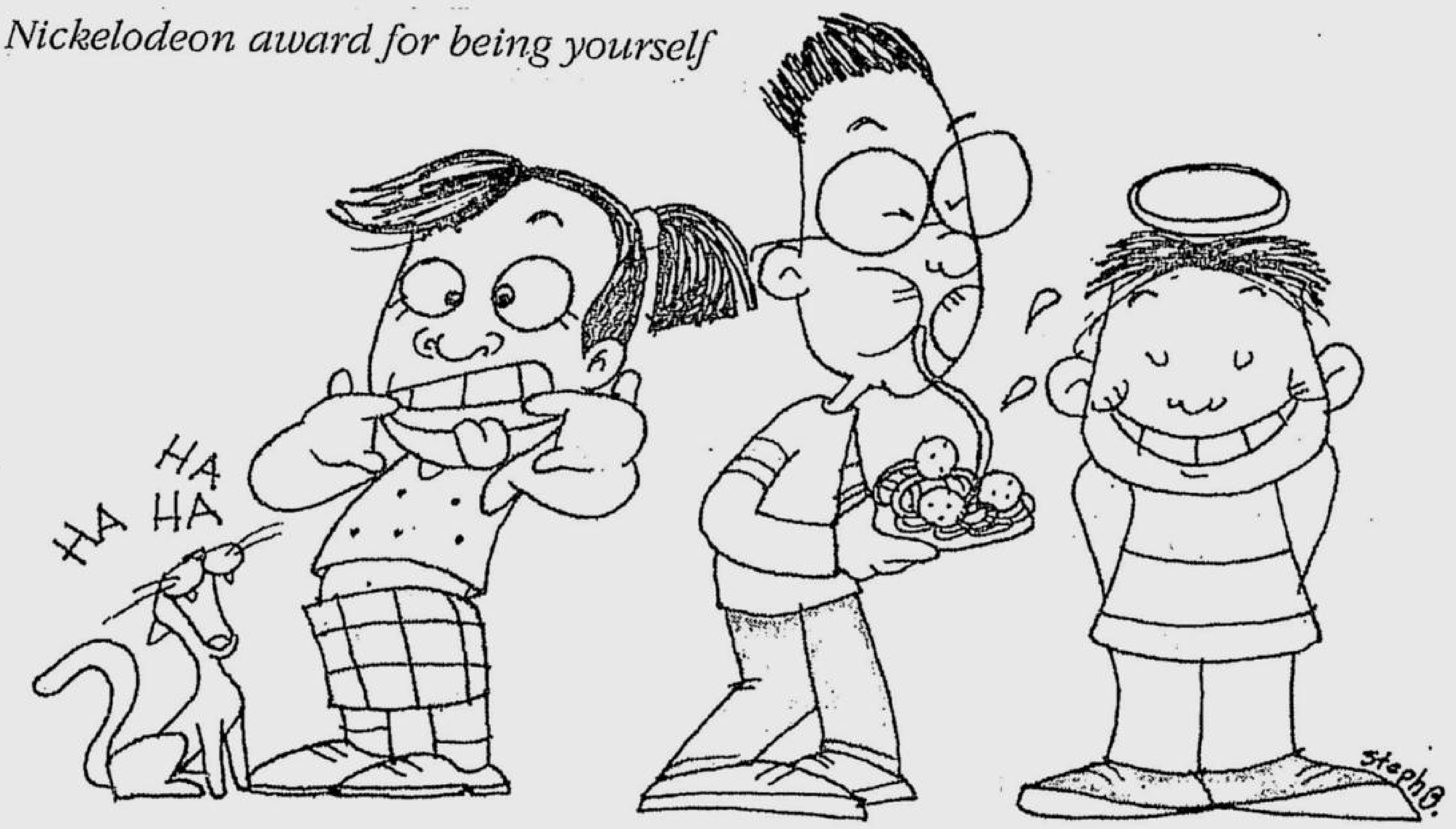
KERMIT the Frog sits next to a screen projection of the Smithsonian Institution's website in Washington. It was announced that Kermit the Frog and 449 other historic objects among the millions that the National Museum of American History has no room to show are going on display on a new website. *AP*

Sailing school

IT'S sailing day for Washington's Morgane Ciboldi, Emily Taylor, and Joelle De Guise. The three girls are participants in the city's sailing school for youths ages 9 to 13. *AP*

The Orange Award

A Nickelodeon award for being yourself



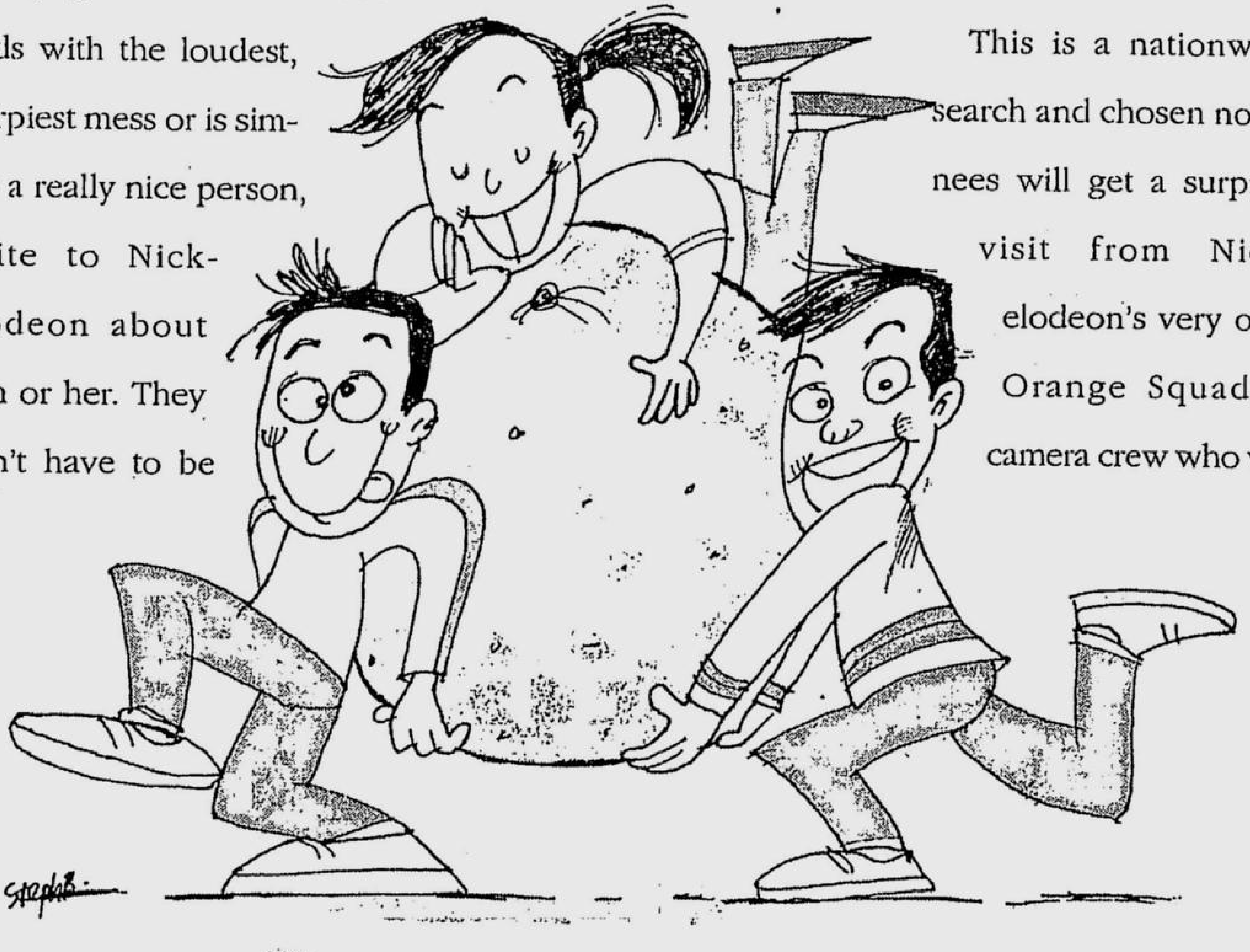
"NICK is everything orange," says Christine Leo-McKerrow, one of Nickelodeon's vice presidents. Orange, she points out, is just a fun color and all of Nickelodeon's 400 logos are in orange, which, she says means, "It's really cool."

Nickelodeon's on a SEARCH

Now one of the most orange things Nickelodeon has ever come up with is...(cue sound of squeezed oranges)...the Big Orange Award. It's an award for six Pinoy kids—yep, you read that right, this is just for Pinoy kids—just for being, guess what, themselves!

Here's how it works, if you know someone who makes you laugh like no one else, eats spaghetti in under 10 seconds with the loudest, slurpiest mess or is simply a really nice person, write to Nickelodeon about him or her. They don't have to be honor students and they don't need any special skills. They just have to be someone who shows just how much fun it is to be a kid.

"We want to do more than just recognize kid achievers," says Christine, "we're basically saying that every kid is special, even when they just do everyday things around the house or in school."



This is a nationwide search and chosen nominees will get a surprise visit from Nickelodeon's very own Orange Squad, a camera crew who will find, film and award the kids when and where they least expect it.

For more details, check out the box below. Deadline for entries is on Sept. 14 so make it snappy and, most of all, make 'em orange-y.

Christine C. Rivero

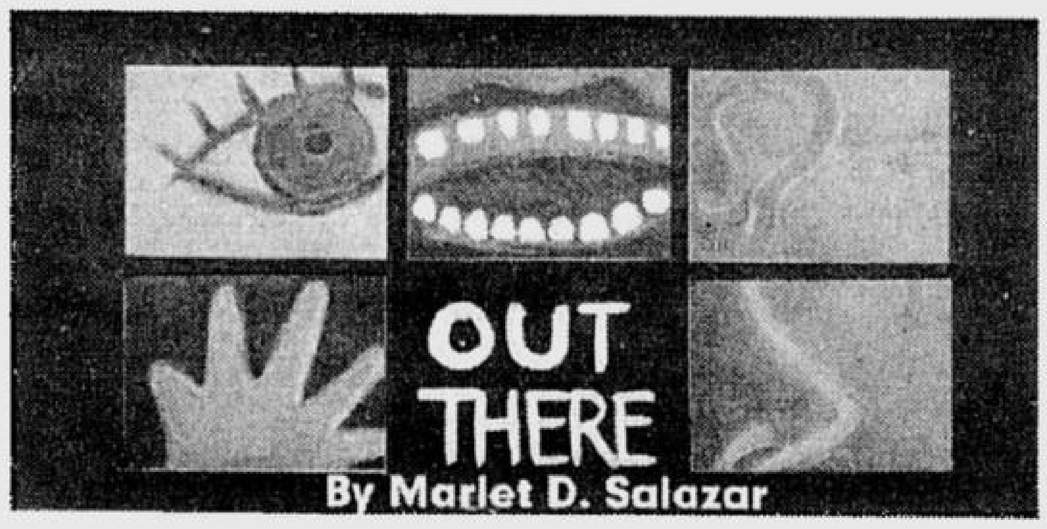
Nominate an Orange, er, Kid Today

ON A PIECE of paper, write your name, your phone number, your age, your home address, your email address as well as your nominee's name, address and birthday. Then in 100 words or less, explain why your nominee deserves The Big Orange Award.

Those you nominate can be from 6-14 years old.

Send your nominations to:
The Big Orange Award
P.O. Box 112500
Ortigas Centre Post Office,
Pasig, Metro Manila

OR you can also email
your nominations to
bigorange@nickphilippines.com



OUT THERE

By Marlet D. Salazar

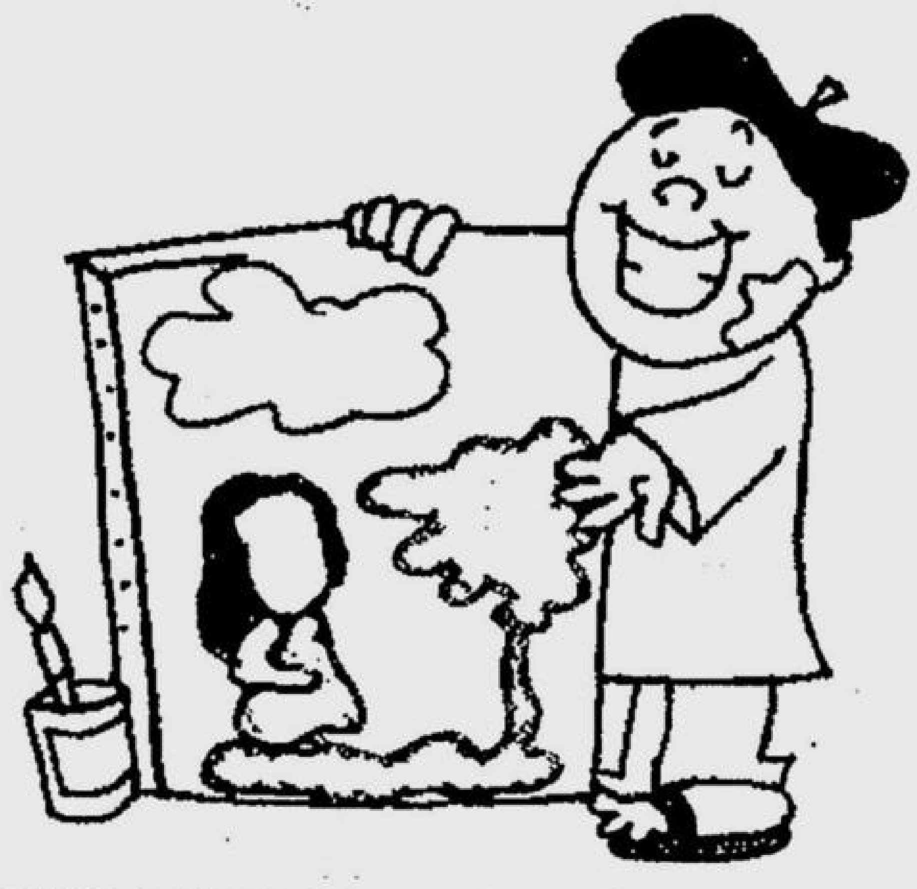
Got something for Out There?

Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Contests

STORY WRITING CONTEST. The RCBC Kuwentong Kalikasan, Katha ng Kabataan is now accepting entries. Recently launched in Bacolod, the contest is a nationwide short story writing contest on environmental conservation. It is open to all elementary students. You can submit one story written in either English or Filipino along with an entry form, which you can get from all Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. branches, schools and offices of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports offices. Grand prize winners will each receive a P30,000 cash prize, a trophy and a scholarship package worth P25,000 from Pacific Plans and Grepalife. Winning schools will receive P20,000 while English or Filipino teachers will receive P5,000. Deadline of submission of entries is on Nov. 16. For more important info, call 894-9479, 878-3344, or 894-9000 local 2711 and 2730.

POSTER-MAKING CONTEST. Join the annual "Apoy, Bagyo, Kalamidad: Dibuhong Pambata" poster-making contest. Design posters that would tell people what to do in case of a disaster. Category A is open to kids ages 7-9 and Category B for ages 10-12 years old. Deadline is on Sept. 20. For more important info, visit any DECS regional and division offices for brochures and posters, CEAP regional offices and schools. Or you can call up 414-5275, 929-9822.



CARD-MAKING. Join Sacred Heart School's on-the-spot card-making contest; open to kids 3-12 years old. The contest is set on Sept. 16. Interested artists may call 636-1277 or 631-9759. Or visit Unit 515, 5/L Shangri-La Plaza, Edsa corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

Activities

TRAVELING THEATER. Watch out for the "Ulat Pang-mulat" traveling theater as they visit various urban poor communities in Metro Manila. It aims to educate the Filipino youth on reproductive health and related issues. There will be plays, songs, dances and puppet shows tackling issues on children. This September "Ulat Pang-mulat" goes to Barangay Vitas, Tondo, Manila. For more info call 922-9273.

BOOK LAUNCH. Check out the new titles published by Adarna Books and Unicef when they are launched on Sept. 3, National Book Day, at the Function Room A, Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall at 4 p.m. There will be a storytelling show for each story and book signing by the writers and artists. The books are now available in leading bookstores.

Children and parents who purchase the latest releases of Adarna House, the leading publisher of children's books in the country, at the Philippine Book Fair will get toys and giveaways and free admission to a puppet and ventriloquist show by Ony Carcamo. The book fair will be from Sept. 1 to 9.

The puppet show, co-sponsored by Jollibee, will be on Sept. 8, Saturday, 4 p.m., at Function Room B of Megatrade Hall. This year, Adarna House will be launching 13 new titles, including eight storybooks: PBBY Grand Prize Winner in Story and Illustration titled "Bakit Matagal Ang Sundo Ko?" by Kristine Canon and Mariano Ching; Palanca award-winning story "Magnificent Benito and His Two Front Teeth" by Augie River and Mike Rivera and illustrated by Jason Moss; "Ang Pambihirang Buhok ni Lola" by Rene O. Villanueva and Ibarra Crisostomo; "Si Pilandok sa Pulo ng Pawikan" by Victoria Añonuevo and Kora Albano; "Ibong Adarna 2" by Roberto Alonzo and Jordan Santos; Noma Concours award-winning book "Sundalong Patpat" by Virgilio S. Almario and Ferdinand Doctolero; "Blue Day" by Pipa Escalante and Abi Goy; and "Melchora Aquino" by Rene O. Villanueva and Ferdinand Doctolero.

Adarna will also be launching five titles in the Batang Historyador series. Commissioned by Unicef, these stories tell the plight of children throughout five different periods in our history: pre-colonized Philippines, Spanish, American and Japanese colonial periods, and pre-Martial Law days. The stories were written by Augie Rivera and illustrations were done by Paolo Lim, Pepper Roxas, Marcus Nada, Jose Miguel Tejido, and Brian Vallesteros.

For more details, please call 372-3548 to 49.

LAMPARA. Let's welcome a new publisher of books for children! Lampara is launching six books today, 5:30 p.m. at Function Room B of the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall. It promises to be an afternoon of fun. There will be book signings, storytelling sessions, face painting, lots of food, and free ice cream and balloons. The books that will be launched are "Ball of Wax" by Heidi Emily Eusebio-Abad; "Bertdey ni Guido" by Rene O. Villanueva; "Burnay, Ang Batang Palayok" by Augie Rivera; "Fish for Two" by Becky Bravo; "Mga Lihim sa Gabi ni Ruming" by Rhandee Garlitos; and "The Spectacular Tree" by Robert Gunnar Magnuson.

i**CLUB**. Be an *i* Club member and enjoy exclusive treats from this kiddie club. Children ages 2-13 are welcome to join. Other exciting year-round activities *i* Clubbers can look forward to are art workshops, kiddie shows, camping trips, trick or treat and costume parade and a lot more. Membership and participation in activities are free. For more inquiries call 910-1577.

Exhibit

R'RIFIC KIDS' ART SHOW. Check out Lester Parlade's (Kids R'rific, July 21, 2001) one-boy art exhibit at the Glorietta II Lobby, Ayala Center, Makati, today at 3 p.m. Lester is 8 years old and a third-grader at the Genesis Montessori Learning Center in Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City. School groups are requested to call 728-1525 before proceeding to the exhibit area. Lester's artworks will be on display until Sept. 7.

ANG INK IS TEN! The Metropolitan Museum Manila presents an exhibition celebrating 10 years of published and unpublished works by members of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan. This show will be on view at the Upper Level Galleries of the Met Museum until today.

Film Showing

ANIME ON PARADE. It's anime film festival at the UP Film Center, CCP Audio Visual Room and Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Check out the titles and schedules: "The White Snake," considered the first Japanese full-length colored animation film; "Akira," a cult favorite, among the anime fans; "The Orphan Brother," is about two brothers sold to a powerful chieftain who also has two sons. Anime on Parade will have screenings until Sept. 4 at the Cinema 2 Shangri-La Plaza Mall. For inquiries call the Japan Foundation Manila at 811-6155 to 58.

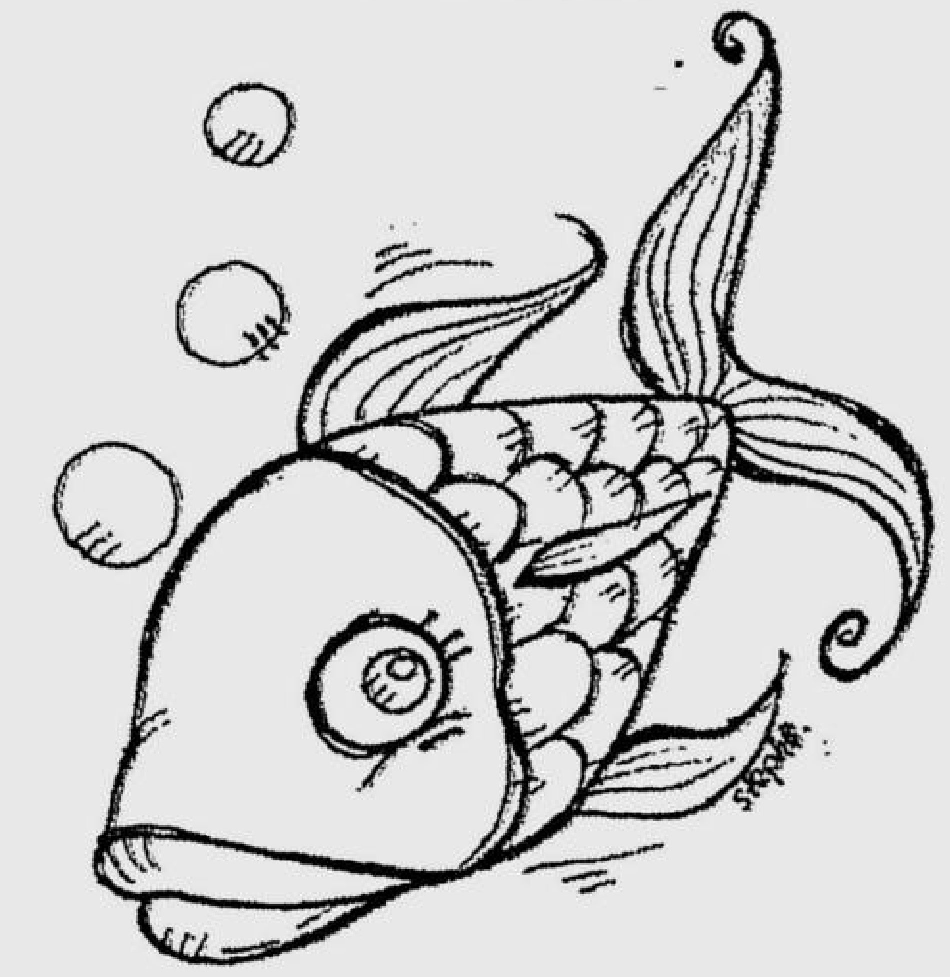
Watch out for...

ASIAN ARTS FEST. On Sept. 15-25, selected young artists will showcase their talents in Anak-Anak Asia, a festival of Asian children's arts Catch this at various sites in Marikina City, Shangri-La Plaza and the National Arts Center in Makiling Laguna. For more details, call up the Philippine High School for the Arts Manila office at 832-3665 or (049) 536-5973.

Journal Pages

Fish Feeding

BY KATHLEEN B. MACROHON
MIRIAM COLLEGE GRADE SCHOOL
QUEZON CITY



MY PARENTS gave me three fishes for my academic excellence this year. There were two goldfishes and one small fish. I was so happy to have them! I hugged, kissed and thanked my parents for them.

One day, as I went to feed my fishes, the phone suddenly rang. I answered it. It was my friends; Bea, Paola, Kim and Ria. They asked me if I could go with them to play kickball at the park. I said yes and hurriedly dressed up. I didn't realize that I hadn't fed my fishes yet.

We played kickball the whole afternoon at the park. We had so much fun! Then suddenly, I remembered that my mom said I have to be home before dinnertime and it was already dinnertime! I quickly said good-bye to my friends and went home.

When I reached home, I remembered my fishes. I ran to my room to feed them. As I put the fish food in the aquarium, I recognized that one of them was missing. I removed all of the stones and fake plants in the aquarium.

There, behind the big rock, I saw one of my goldfishes sleeping.

"Good thing it's not dead!" I said.

The same happened the following week, I was invited to a whole day party and I also forgot to feed them. Then we went to to the mall and I also didn't feed them. Then the two weeks that followed, guess what? I also forgot to feed them.

After the three weeks of not feeding them, one of them died. I cried and cried. I told the whole story to everyone in the house. Then I flushed my goldfish in the bathroom, crying.

After that, it was bedtime. I brushed my teeth, took a bath, dressed up and went to sleep, but I couldn't sleep!

My parents went inside my room. They saw me crying and tried to comfort me. They said that my fish died because I always forget to feed them and I was not responsible enough.

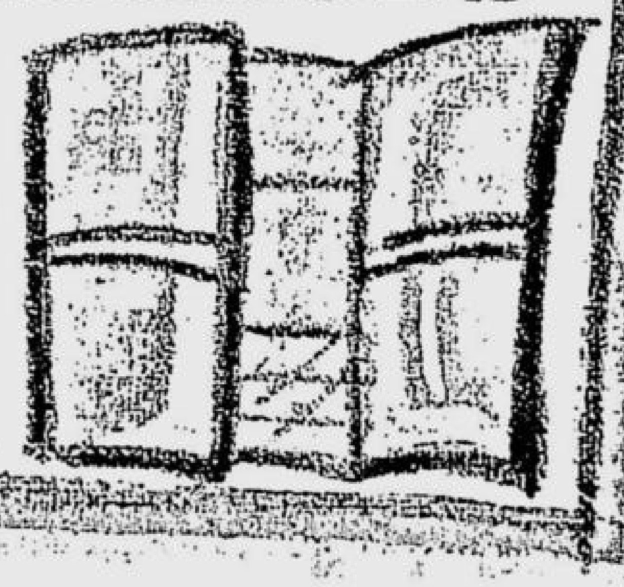
"I learned a valuable lesson today," I said with a smile. "Never forget to feed your pets even if you have to do something else, especially if it's not important."

From that time on, I did not forget to feed my two remaining fishes again. They grew so healthy, big and strong that soon, they didn't fit in the aquarium anymore.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **jl@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



JI and Anime

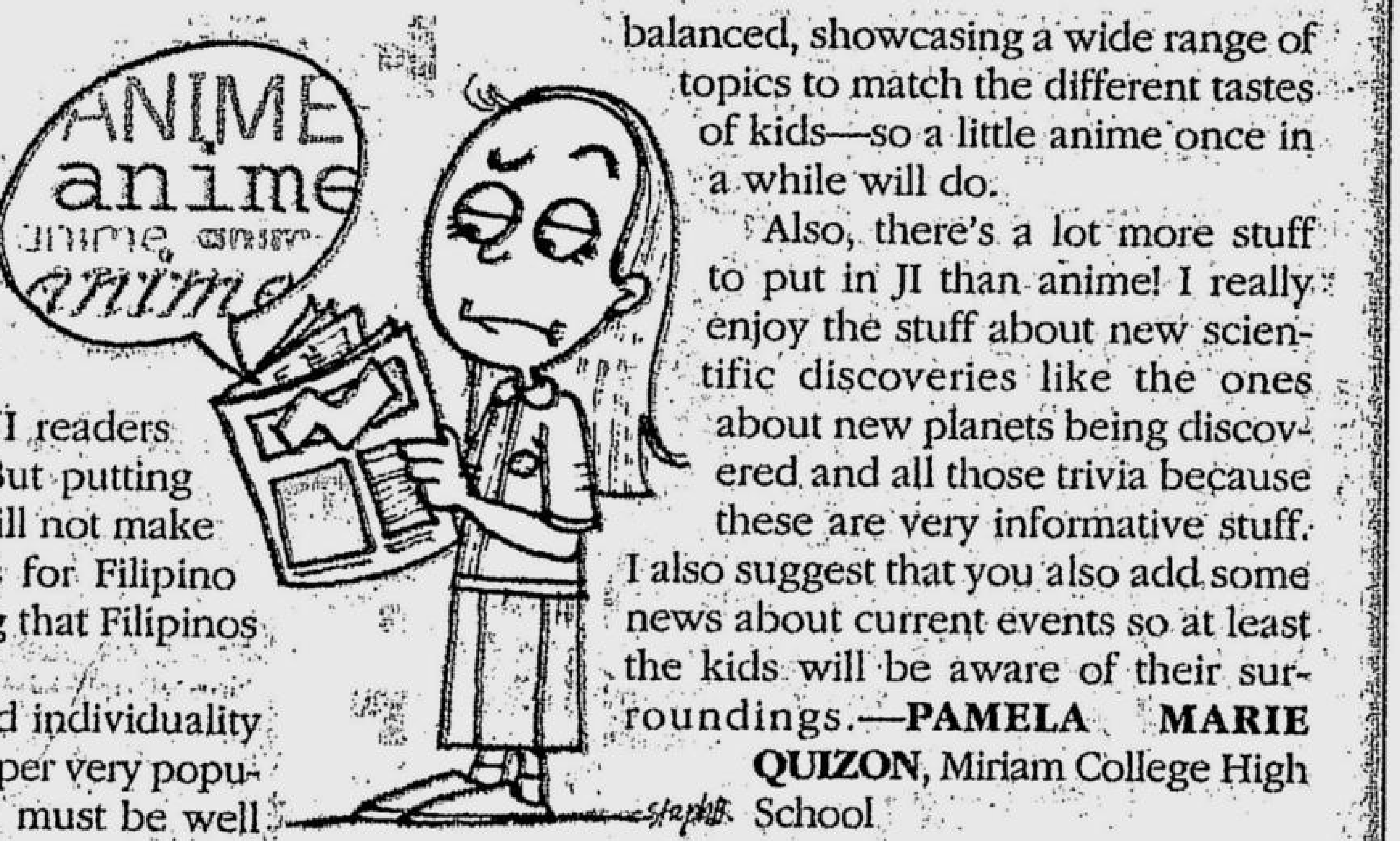
DEAR Editor,

I also think that anime is cool. I grew up watching anime shows. But the idea of putting more anime articles in your newspaper doesn't really appeal to me.

I know there are many JI readers who are also anime fans. But putting lots of Japanese stuff in JI will not make it a better publication. JI is for Filipino kids. It's got to be something that Filipinos identify with.

JI has its own identity and individuality and I think this made your paper very popular among young readers. JI must be well balanced, showcasing a wide range of topics to match the different tastes of kids—so a little anime once in a while will do.

Also, there's a lot more stuff to put in JI than anime! I really enjoy the stuff about new scientific discoveries like the ones about new planets being discovered and all those trivia because these are very informative stuff. I also suggest that you also add some news about current events so at least the kids will be aware of their surroundings.—**PAMELA MARIE QUIZON**, Miriam College High School



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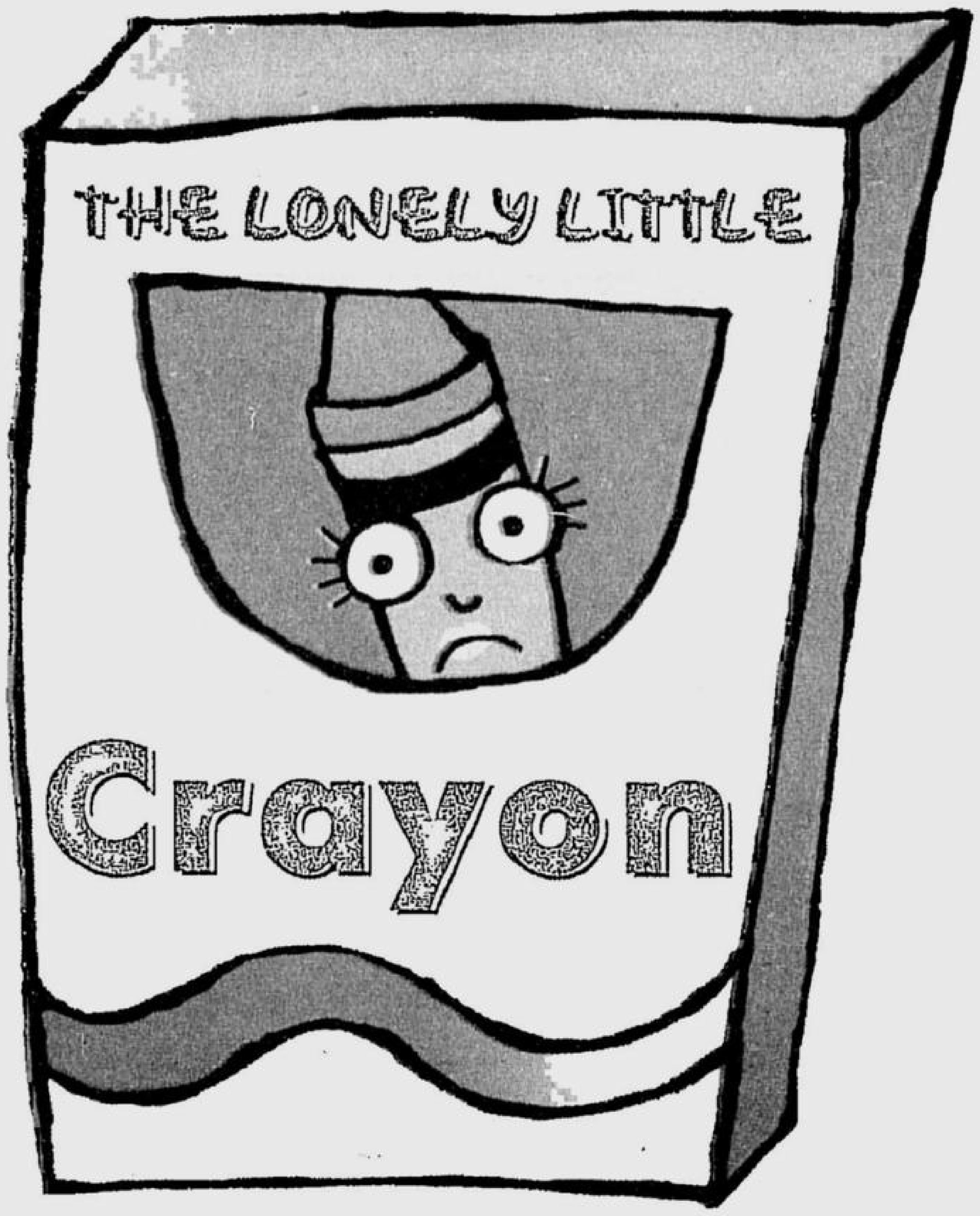
The Lonely Li

What use is a crayon if it is not used?
Penny Purple was getting impatient…

STORY BY CHRISTINA PUNLA MATA
ILLUSTRATIONS BY KATRINA VILLA



PENNY Purple was a lonely little crayon. She lived with her 15 brothers and sisters in a clear plastic box.

Penny was sad because unlike her brothers and sisters, Teddy did not use her much. Teddy was the little boy who owned them.

Every day, Teddy would bring Penny and her brothers and sisters to school. He would place them in his big, black backpack, beside a pad of paper. When art class came, Teddy would reach into his bag and pull his crayons out. Recess came before art class. So the crayons would always get excited everytime the bell rang.

"Yay!" Benjie Blue would scream. "I hear the recess bell! Art class comes next."

Penny's sisters would start fixing themselves up. "I hope teacher Lizzie makes them draw cars."

Regina Red would rub her cheeks to make them redder. "Teddy always uses me to color his cars red."

"No!" Billy Brown would say. "I want Teddy to draw a *nipa* hut again. A brown *nipa* hut!"

"Yes! Then, he will draw a rice field beside the *nipa* house." Gretel Green was so excited. "A green rice field would be very nice beside the *nipa* hut."

"It doesn't matter what he draws." Yvonne Yellow would interrupt. "Teddy always uses me to draw the sun!"

"I still think a car would be better." Regina Red would say.

"No, pink flowers would be more cute." Patty Pink would add.

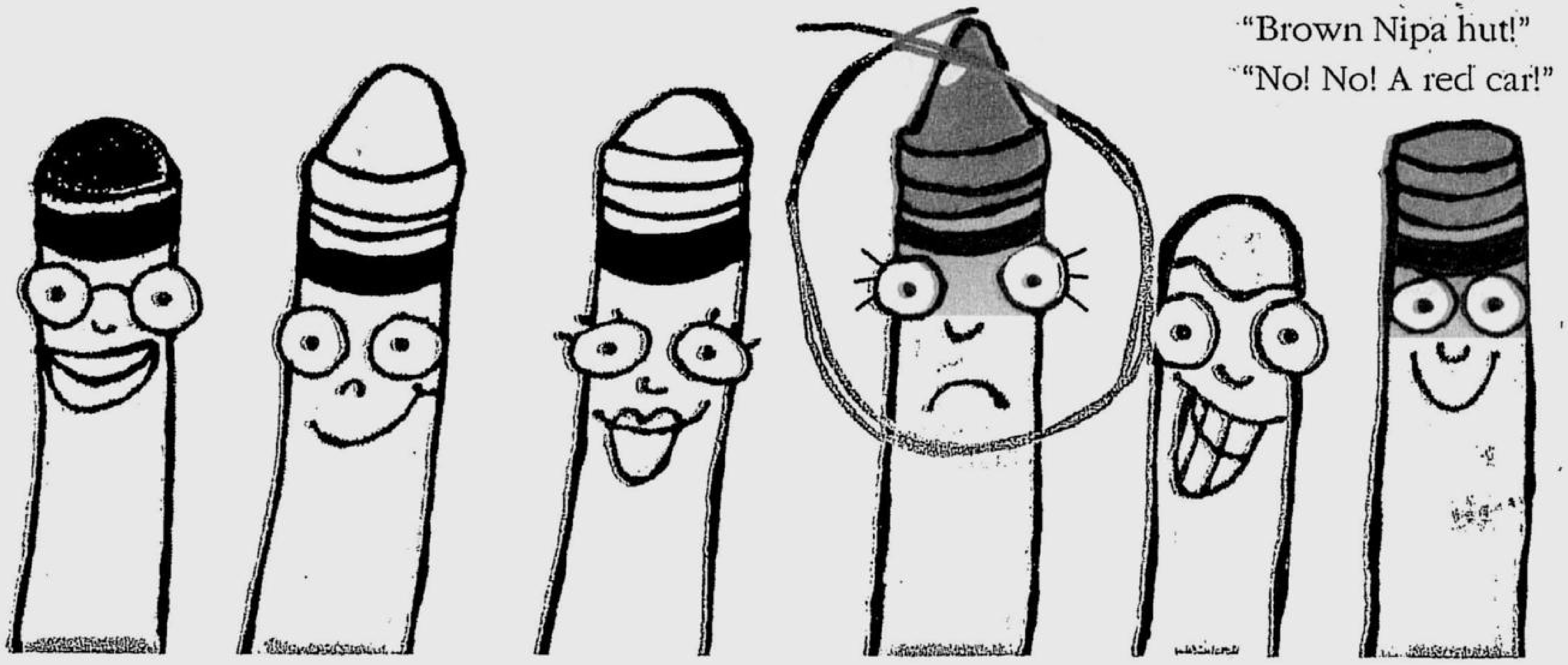
"Brown Nipa hut!"

"No! No! A red car!"

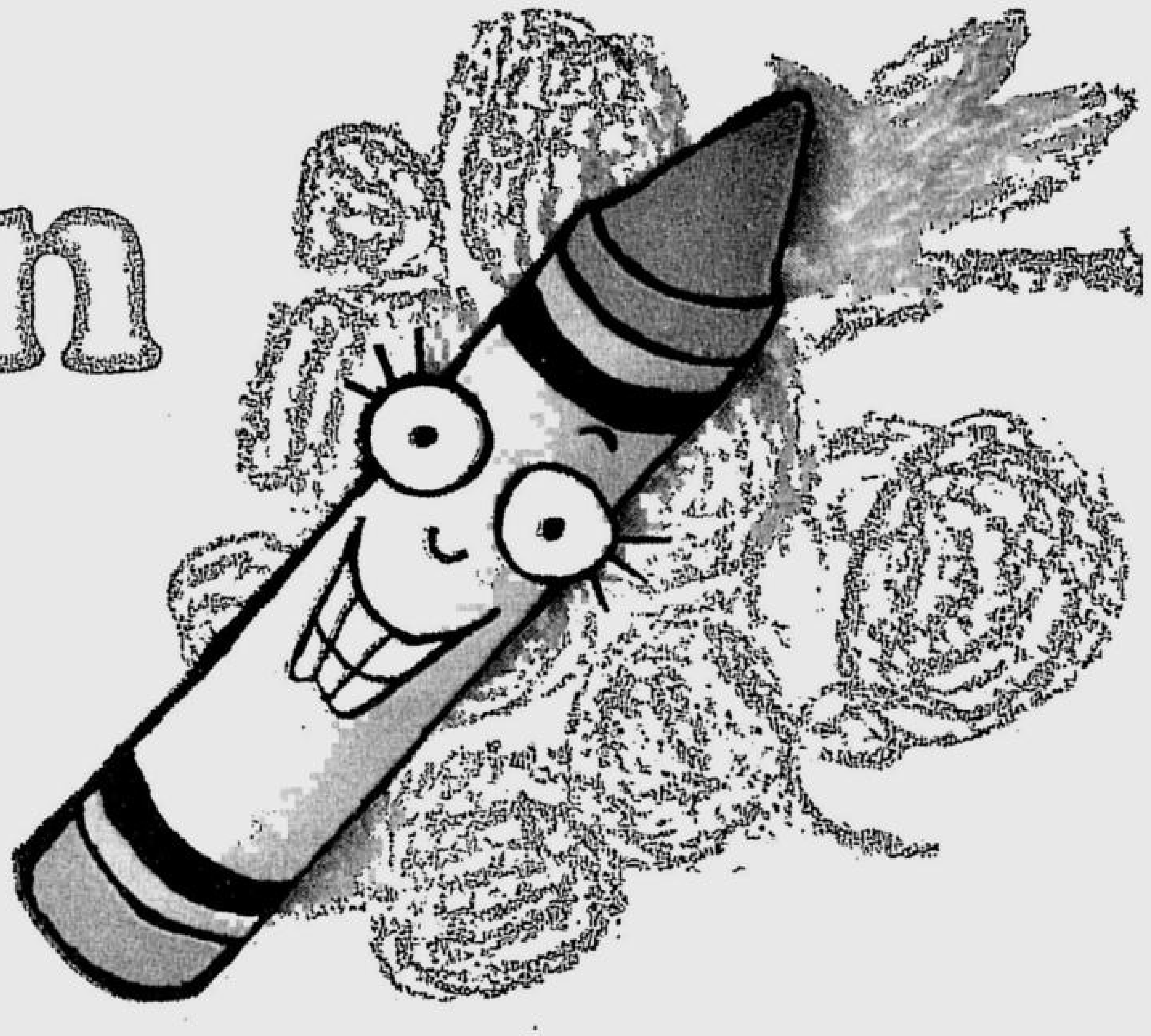
"A sun! Definitely a sun!"

"Clouds are definitely cooler!"

This kind of ruckus would happen every day right before art class. Penny Purple would be very sad because Teddy never used her. Benjie was half spent already. Billy's paper wrapping was already half gone. Yvonne's tip wasn't



ttle Crayon



sharp anymore, but Penny? Penny was still as good as new. Penny felt useless. While the others were quarreling, Penny would sit in the box corner and watch them.

Someday, she hoped, her day would come.

"OH, THAT BASKET looked so good!" Billy Brown exclaimed as Teddy returned him to the box. Everybody clustered around him, jumping up and down.

"What is he drawing?" Gretel Green squeaked.

"He's drawing fruits I think." Billy replied.

"Oh, goody, goody! I hope he draws bananas!" Yvonne jumped. ""Then, I could dazzle everybody with my brightness."

"I hope he draws some strawberries!" Regina Red said.

"Blueberries!"

"Apples!"

"Oranges!"

Amid all these squealing, Penny Purple was sulking in a corner. "Hmp! I'm good for nothing. Might as well-"

"What good for nothing?" Bobby Black asked her.

"Teddy never uses me." Penny brushed away a stray tear. "I'm good as new, while the others are having the times of their lives."

"Penny, don't worry. Your day will come. Each color has its use. Why were we made in the first place if we had no use? Yvonne colors the sun, Benjie colors the skies. Billy colors the mountains, and I color hair. We have different things to do, all because we have different talents. Just because Teddy hasn't found something to color you with, it doesn't mean that you don't have talent. It just means that your talent is yet to be discovered." Bobby tried to hush her. "Don't cry Penny."

We have different things to do, all because we have different talents. Just because Teddy hasn't found something to color you with, it doesn't mean that you don't have talent

"I guess you're right, Bobby." Penny dabbed her eyes. "It's just that, well, I'm tired of always waiting and—"

Suddenly, someone picked Penny up. To her surprise, the hand which picked her up brushed her against paper. Somebody was coloring with her!

Penny was overjoyed. She couldn't explain the happiness she felt. She felt like she was soaring among the clouds, riding a rollercoaster and singing at the same time!

After a while, Teddy stopped and Penny was able to look at what he drew. A bunch of grapes! Penny wanted to giggle. Of course, grapes! Why didn't she think of that.

Still trying to hold back her giggles, Penny clasped her mouth as Teddy returned her to the box. She smiled widely, still brimming with excitement and ran to Bobby.

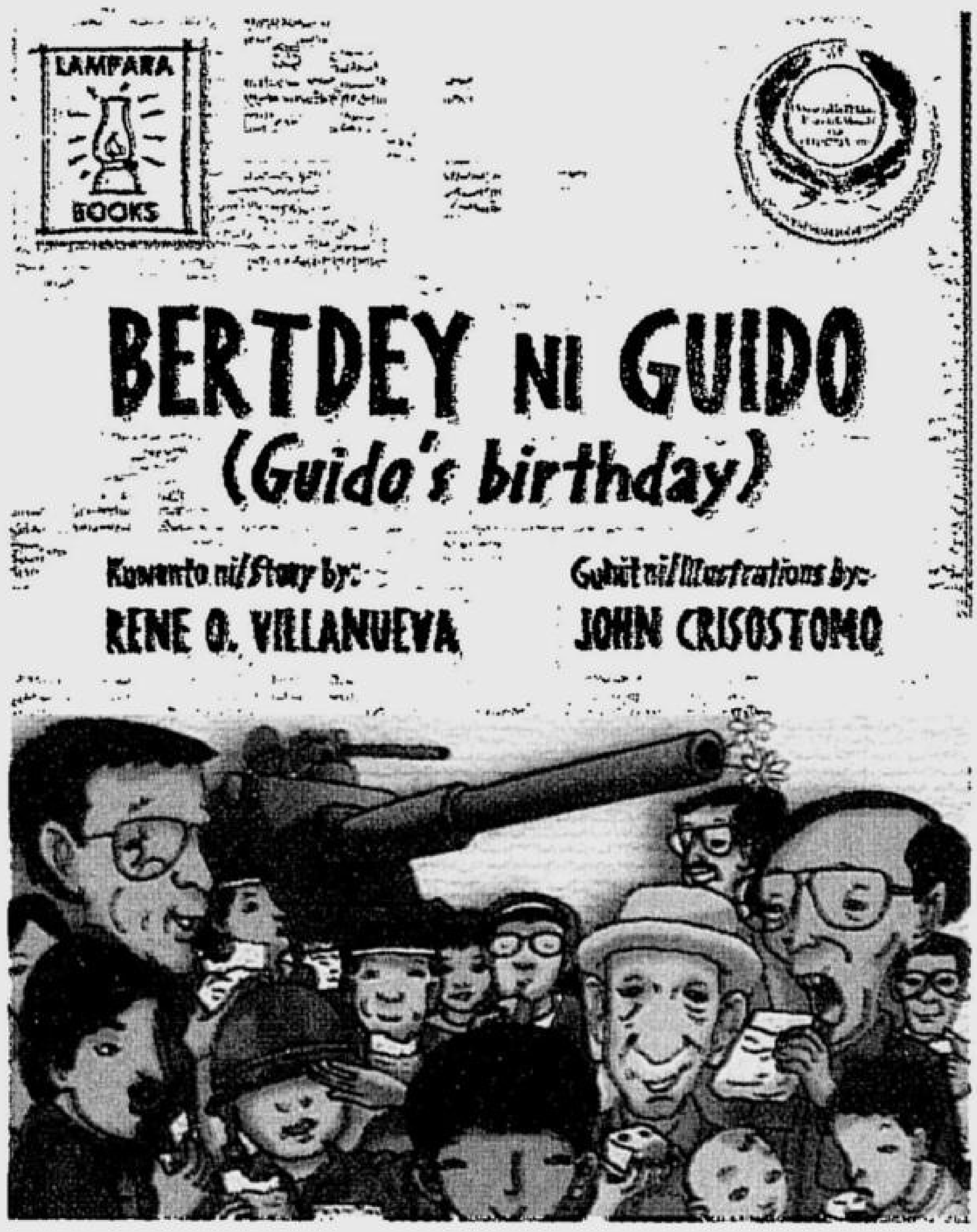
"You're right Bobby!" Penny said after she was returned to the box. "I have a use after all! I have found my talent. I can color grapes! And grape jelly. Maybe grape juice—"

"And don't forget grape gum!" Bobby added, laughing along with her.

And with that, Penny was no longer sad.

Christina *studies Communication Arts and Advertising Management at De La Salle University. She was formerly the editor in chief of the Malate Literary Folio, the official literary publication of De La Salle University.*

Niña *is the creator of "The Lunch Box."*



LAMPARA BOOKS

BERTDEY NI GUIDO
(Guido's birthday)

Kuwento ni/Story by:
RENE O. VILLANUEVA

Guhit ni/Illustrations by:
JOHN CRISOSTOMO

Happy Birthday to People Power!

Iggy Ipis
BOOK REVIEWS

TWO days before Guido's 9th birthday, he wakes up to find his parents have left the house to join a rally at Edsa. When they come home late at night, they are too tired to plan his birthday party with him. A day before his birthday, there's no school, and so he can't invite his classmates. His mother and father are again not home. If you were Guido, what would you do? How would you feel?

Feeling sad and miserable, of course, especially if you are excited about celebrating your birthday and sharing laughter and fun with your friends. This Rene Villanueva understands and writes about in his book, "Bertdey ni Guido." Guido is equally understanding, so instead of throwing tantrums and sulking, he lets his parents rest. He listens to the radio, and he realizes how important the rally is. This isn't just any other rally, you know, this turns out to be Edsa 1, the original People Power rally that began all People Power rallies!

Finally Guido's birthday arrives: Feb. 25, 1986. The people are still at Edsa, they do not plan to go home until the dictator leaves his palace at Malacañang. What do you think happens? Well, Guido's birthday party pushes through, and in such a radical way! And the wish that he makes on his birthday cake is granted!

What happened exactly? Well, you'll have to get a hold of the book–or this cockroach–to know any more! Ha! Ha! Ha!

Just looking at John Crisostomo's illustrations will also tell you much of the story, and bring you back to 1986, to a time when the Filipino people lived and loved and hoped and feared and were all heroes. It's interesting to just look at the faces in the crowd, and to see so many Filipinos from different walks of life– soldiers, nuns, housewives, priests, photographers, farmers, jeepney drivers, singers, and children of all ages. You will also recognize some whose faces are still in newspapers today, and you can make your own birthday wish sometime–that they are still doing their job like heroes, and as well as they did in Edsa 1.

"Bertdey ni Guido," which won third prize in the Palanca Awards, Maikling Kwentong Pambata, in 1989, is published by Lampara Books, © 2001 and available at any local bookstore.

FOR
or
By
KIDS

Trees

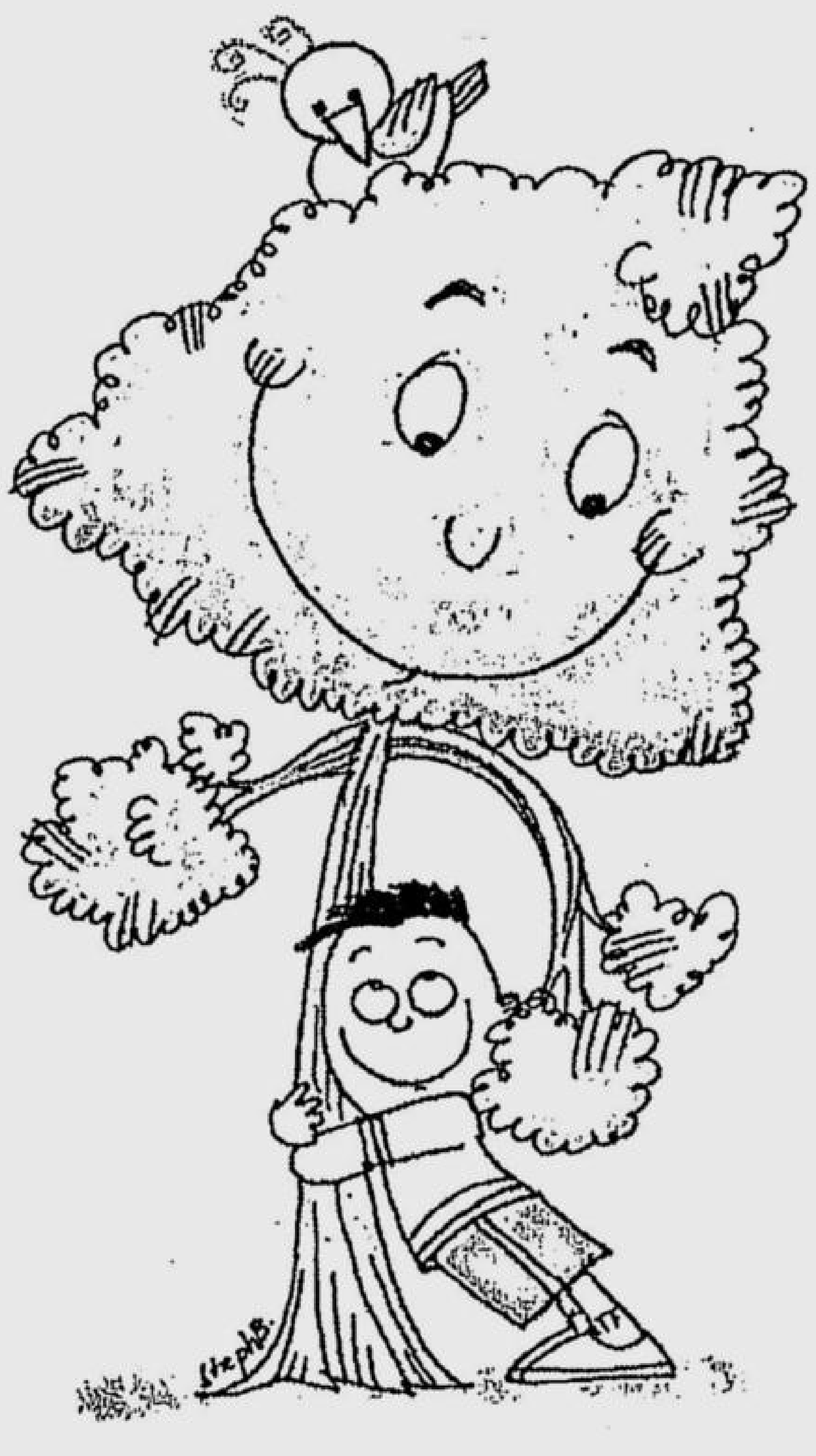
BY JOSHUA R. CASTELO
ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Trees are very green,
They give off oxygen.
Many trees are easy to be seen,
Especially the evergreens.

Trees grow from seeds,
They also fill our needs.
Trees are of many kinds,
Like mangroves and Baguio pines.

Trees grow very tall,
Stormy weather sometimes
makes them fall.
The leaves of their branches are wide—
You can also play by their side.

***Joshua**, 10, is a sixth-grader at Bani East Central School in Pangasinan.*
***Steph** is JI's staff artist.*



Nationalgeographic.com honored

ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

HEY! Did you know that nationalgeographic.com, the website of the National Geographic Society, was recognized with a Webby Award for Best Education Website and the People's Voice Award in the same category at the fifth annual Webby Awards, held recently in San Francisco, California, USA?

This is a really big award because the Webby and the People's Voice awards are the leading international honor for the websites and individual achievement in technology and creativity. The Webby Awards are presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, a diverse 350-person organization whose membership includes actress Susan Sarandon, musician David Bowie and film maker Francis Ford Coppola. The People's Voice Awards are selected by the online community of Internet uses who cast votes for their favorite websites. This year nearly 400,000 votes were cast by Internet voters.

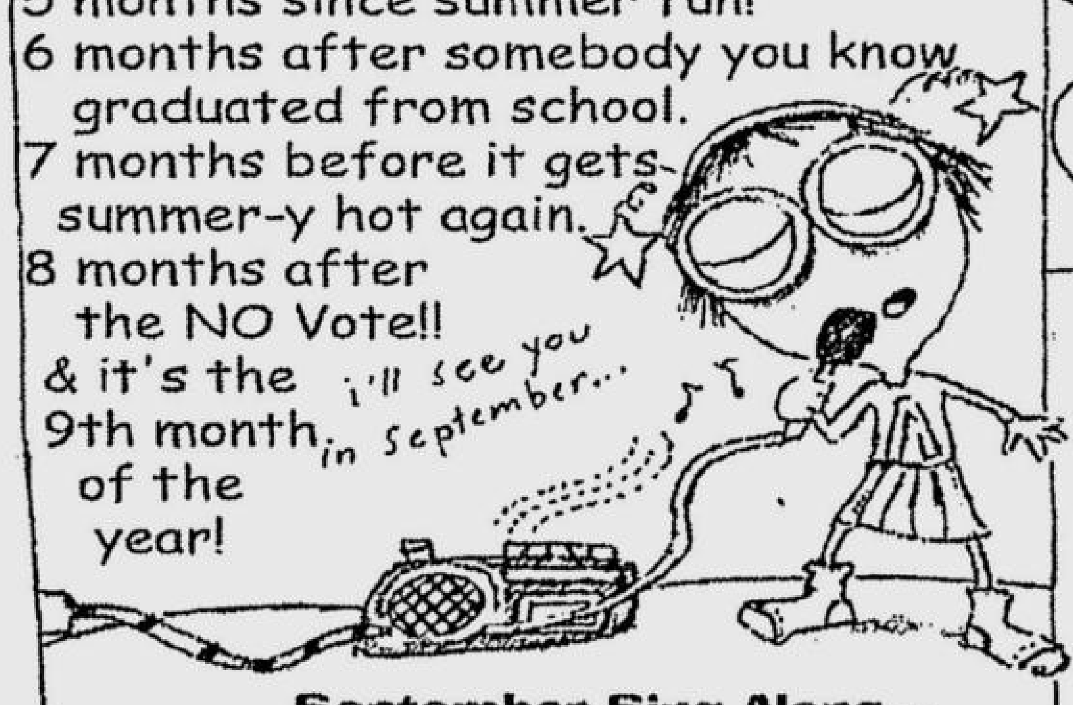
Check out the site on the Net and you'll find out that it's very useful when you're doing a paper or need some information for your homework on geography, science, social studies and even arts and music.

The site, which was jazzed up in 2000, is exciting and you'll go crazy clicking on buttons and pictures that lead you to articles, photo galleries of never-been-seen images from the world's leading photographers, insights from writers and photographers on what it took to get the story or capture the amazing image and forum boards.

The Adventures of atom & weboy D' Buddha Bear

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

9 reasons why September's super!
It's ...
1 month before October (another nice month).
2 months before All Saints/Souls Day.
3 months before Christmas.
4 months before New Year.
5 months since summer fun!
6 months after somebody you know graduated from school.
7 months before it gets summer-y hot again.
8 months after the NO Vote!!
& it's the 9th month of the year!

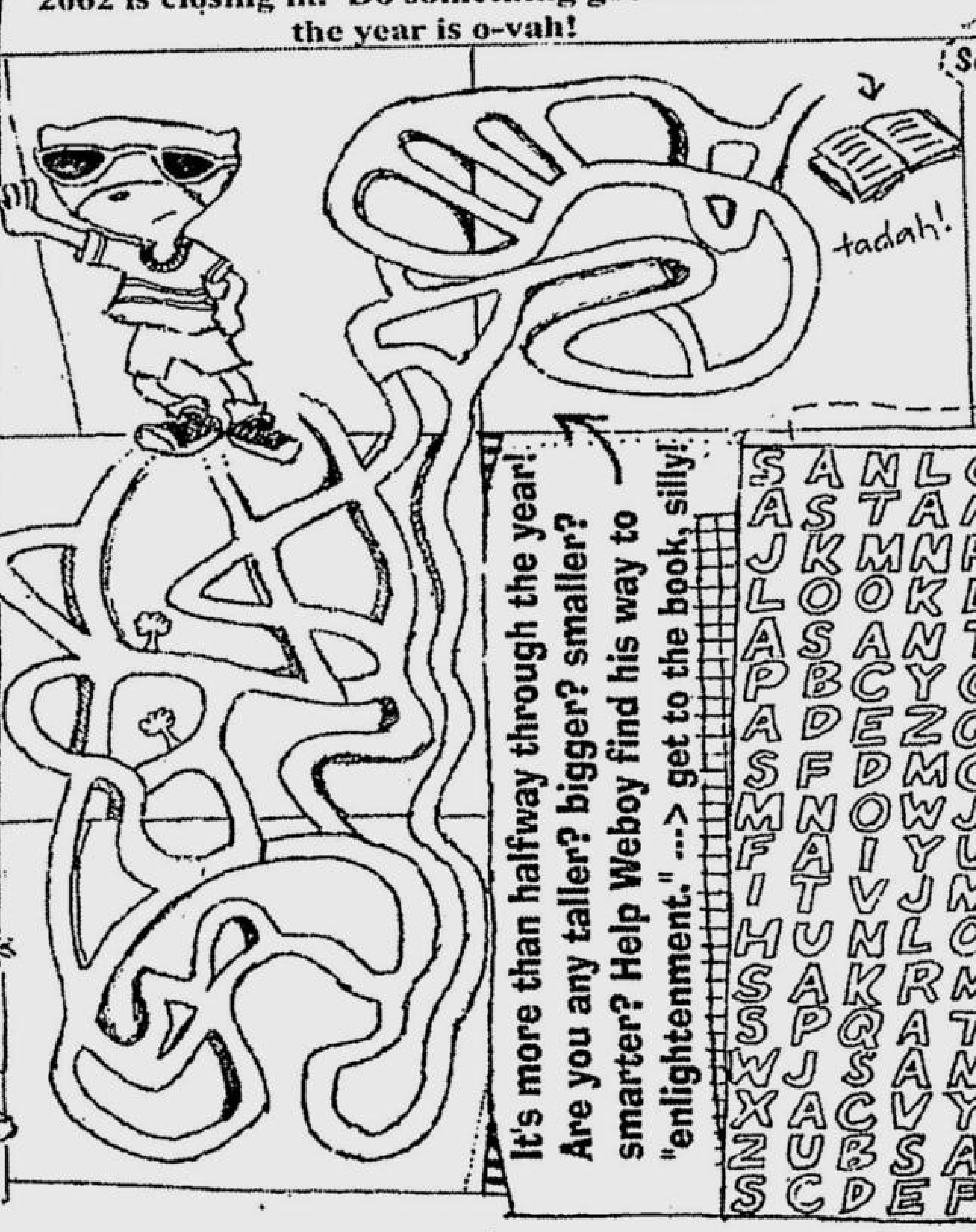

i'll see you in september...

September Sing Along...

It's SEPTEMBER already?!!!

2002 is closing in. Do something good before the year is o-vah!

TIME FLIES!



It's more than halfway through the year! Are you any taller? bigger? smaller? smarter? Help Weboy find his way to "enlightenment." ---> get to the book, silly!

Seek & Ye Shall Find These Streets!

Sucat
Shaw Boulevard
San Lorenzo
Santolan
San Juan
San Andres
San Rafael
Sta. Mesa
Salcedo
San Roque
Sampaloc
Sangandaan
South Super Highway
SFDM (San Francisco Del Monte)

S	A	N	L	O	R	E	N	Z	O	C	H	S
A	S	T	A	M	E	S	A	B	D	E	I	O
J	K	M	N	P	Q	R	S	F	G	S	T	U
L	O	O	K	D	I	N	H	E	F	I	S	T
A	S	A	N	T	O	L	A	N	B	C	A	H
P	B	C	Y	G	U	H	W	J	K	L	N	S
A	D	E	Z	Q	R	S	B	T	V	X	G	U
S	F	D	M	G	H	N	O	I	C	E	A	P
M	N	O	W	J	A	K	U	O	L	U	N	E
F	A	I	Y	U	D	X	L	G	H	Q	D	R
I	T	V	J	M	N	A	E	O	K	O	A	H
H	U	N	L	O	P	I	V	J	P	R	A	I
S	A	K	R	M	L	W	A	N	Q	N	N	G
S	P	Q	A	T	G	S	R	M	R	A	T	H
W	J	S	A	N	A	N	D	R	E	S	U	W
X	A	C	V	Y	Z	E	F	A	H	B	C	A
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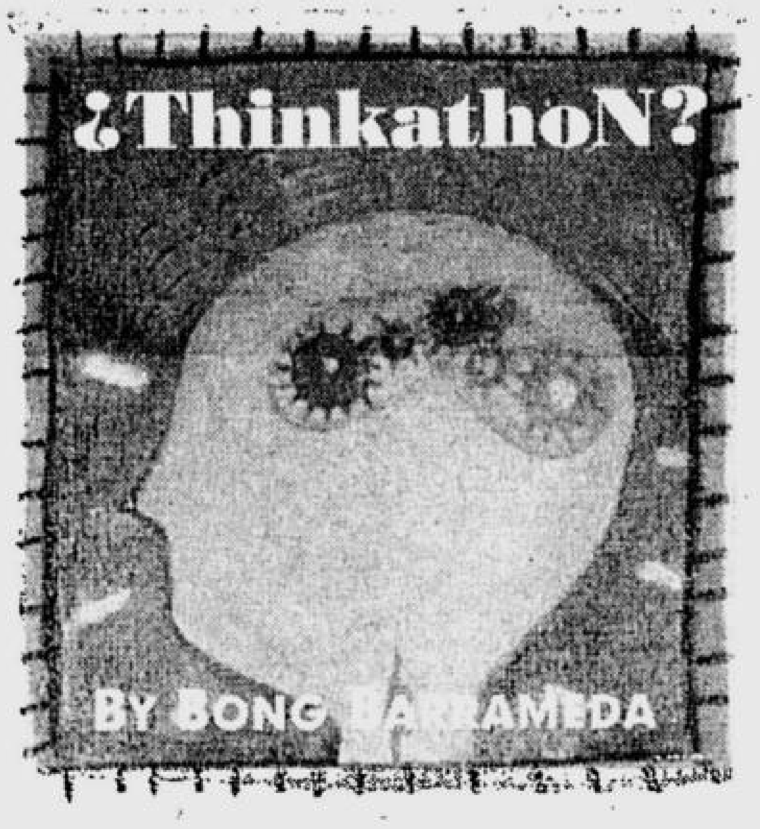


September to Remember

SEPTEMBER was originally the 7th month of the Julian calendar (Julius Caesar and the Romans began the year in March), the word rooted in the Latin *septem*, "seven." How many of the dozen September events below have you read about and still remember?

1. On September 28th, a Filipino president was born in 1910 and another died in 1989. Name them. (*Clue*: Both were bar topnotchers.)
   - o Manuel Roxas and Carlos P. Garcia
   - o Ramon Magsaysay and Elpidio Quirino
   - o Diosdado Macapagal and Ferdinand Marcos

2. What country did Germany, under Adolf Hitler, invade on September 1, 1939, a move that would trigger World War II?
   - o Poland
   - o France
   - o Austria

3. Who was introduced in "Steamboat Willie," the first sound cartoon film, which was released on September 19, 1928?
   - o Mickey Mouse
   - o Aquaman
   - o Donald Duck

4. Which Filipino struck gold in the exhibition sport of bowling on September 19, 1988 at the Seoul Olympics?
   - o Arianne Cerdeña
   - o Paeng Nepomuceno
   - o Bong Coo-Garcia

5. Which Italian poet died, age 56, on September 15, 1321, not long after finishing his masterpiece "La Divina Commedia (The Divine Comedy)," a 14,000-line work that took him 14 years to complete?
   - o Michaelangelo
   - o Virgil
   - o Dante Alighieri

6. What ship, originally commanded by Ferdinand Magellan, completed the first circumnavigation of the world on September 6, 1522?
   - o Santa Maria
   - o Victoria
   - o Trinidad

7. Which famous 27-year-old guitarist, the highest paid act at the 1979 Woodstock Festival, died from an overdose of sleeping pills in London on September 18, 1970?
   - o Jimi Hendrix
   - o Keith Moon
   - o Jim Morrison

8. Which Philippine volcano erupted on September 28, 1965, killing about 2,000 people and wiping out a dozen barrios?
   - o Taal
   - o Kanlaon
   - o Mayon

9. What US landmark turned down a visit by Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev for security reasons on September 20, 1959?
   - o Disneyland
   - o Empire State Building
   - o Grand Canyon

10. Which fellow American boxer did Gene Tunney beat to win the world heavyweight title in the so-called "Battle of the Long Count" in Chicago on September 22, 1927?
    - o Jess Willard
    - o Joe Louis
    - o Jack Dempsey

11. In what country did the world's first passenger train service take place on September 27, 1825?
    - o England
    - o Russia
    - o United States

12. On September 21, 1972 President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law, which was otherwise known as Proclamation —
    - o 1071
    - o 1081
    - o 1091

Answers :

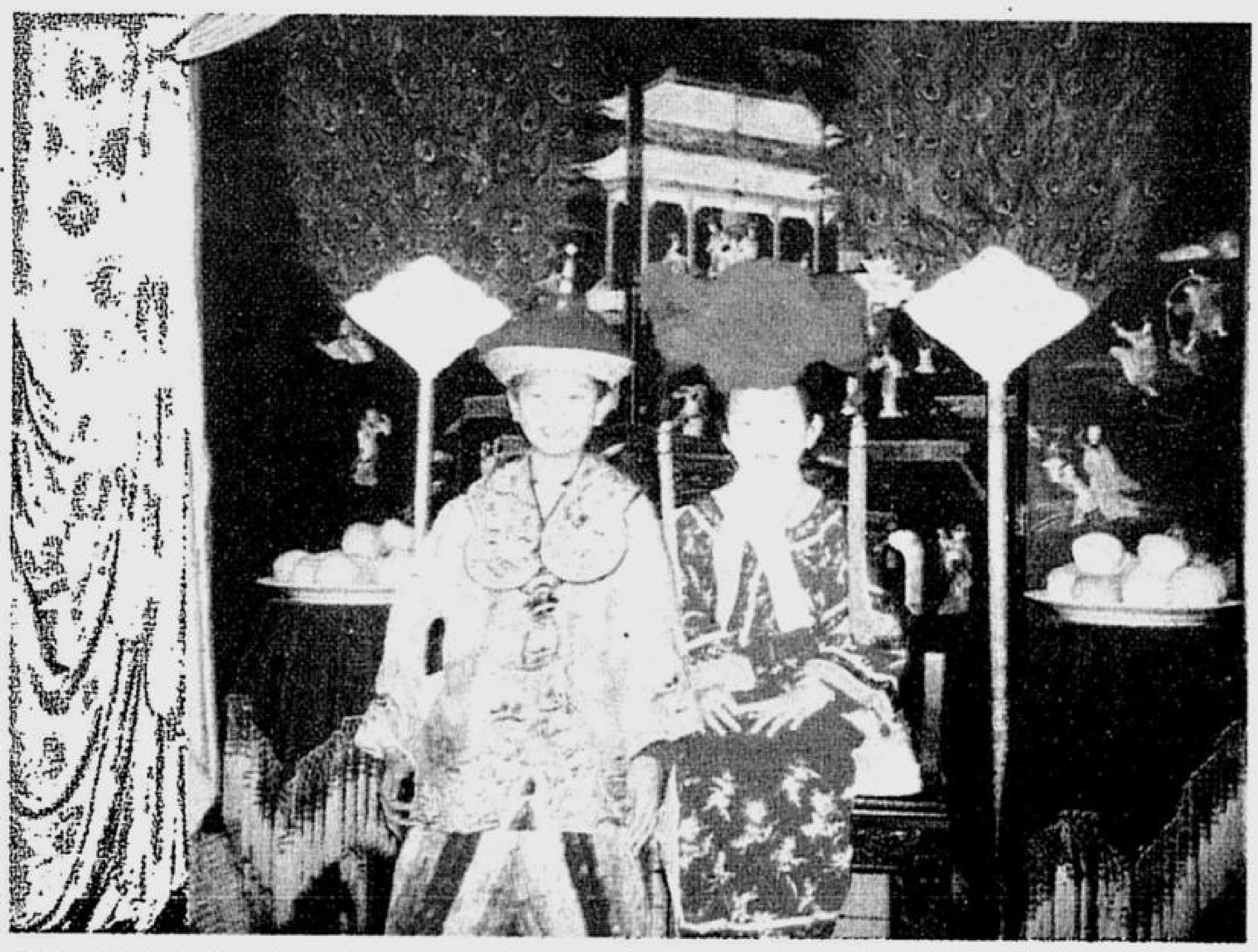
1. Diosdado Macapagal and Ferdinand Marcos
2. Poland
3. Mickey Mouse
4. Arianne Cerdena
5. Dante Alighieri
6. *Victoria*
7. Jimi Hendrix
8. Taal
9. Disneyland
10. Jack Dempsey
11. England
12. 1081

Ratings :

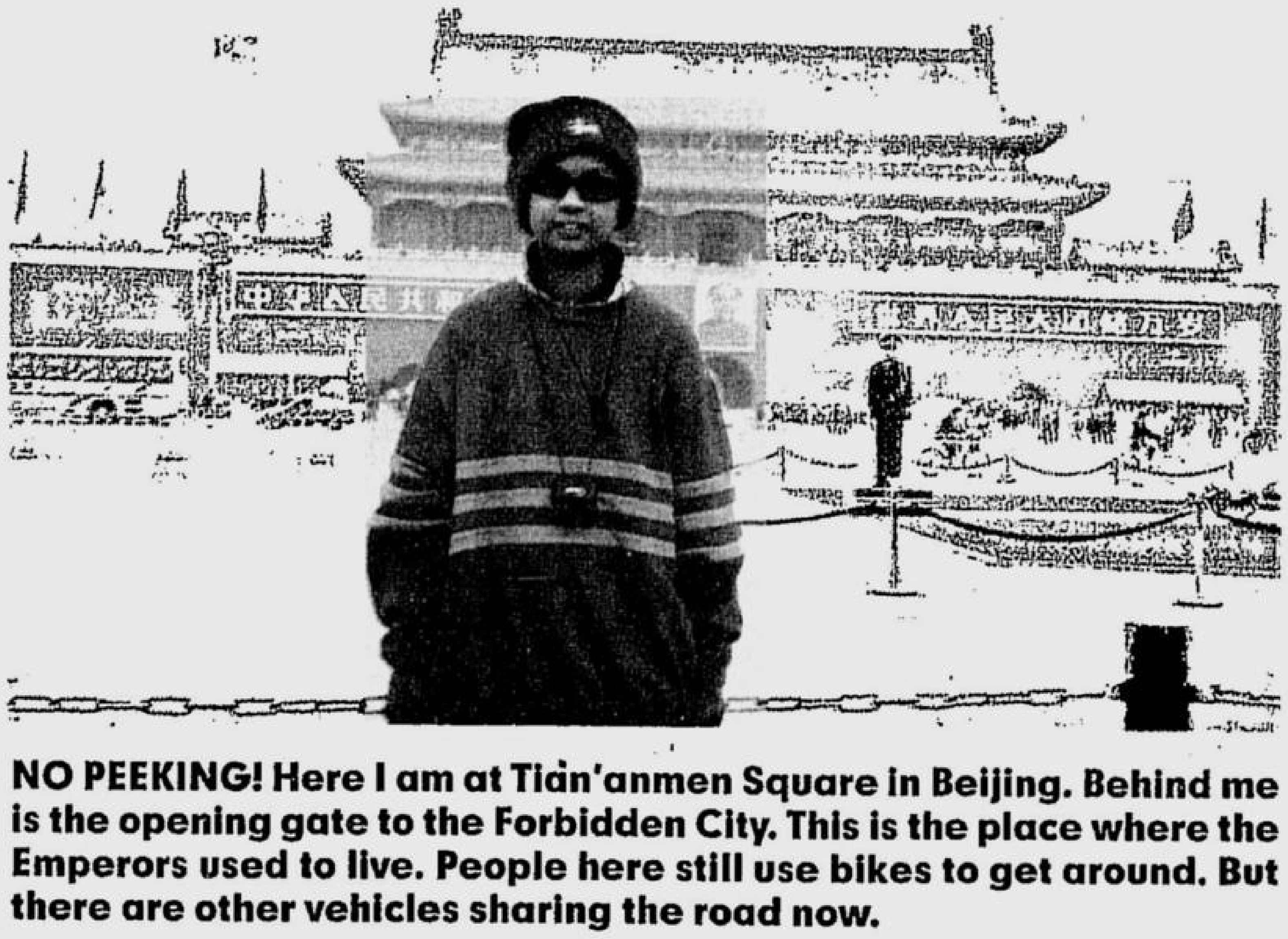
11 - 12 ...... Superbrain
9 - 10 ...... Good
7 - 8 ...... Fair

China on My Mind

*It's a place of emperors, history and very old secrets. **JI correspondent Stanly Galo C. Sy** of **Xavier School** visits the land of his ancestors and shares with us some of his pictures and impressions of China*



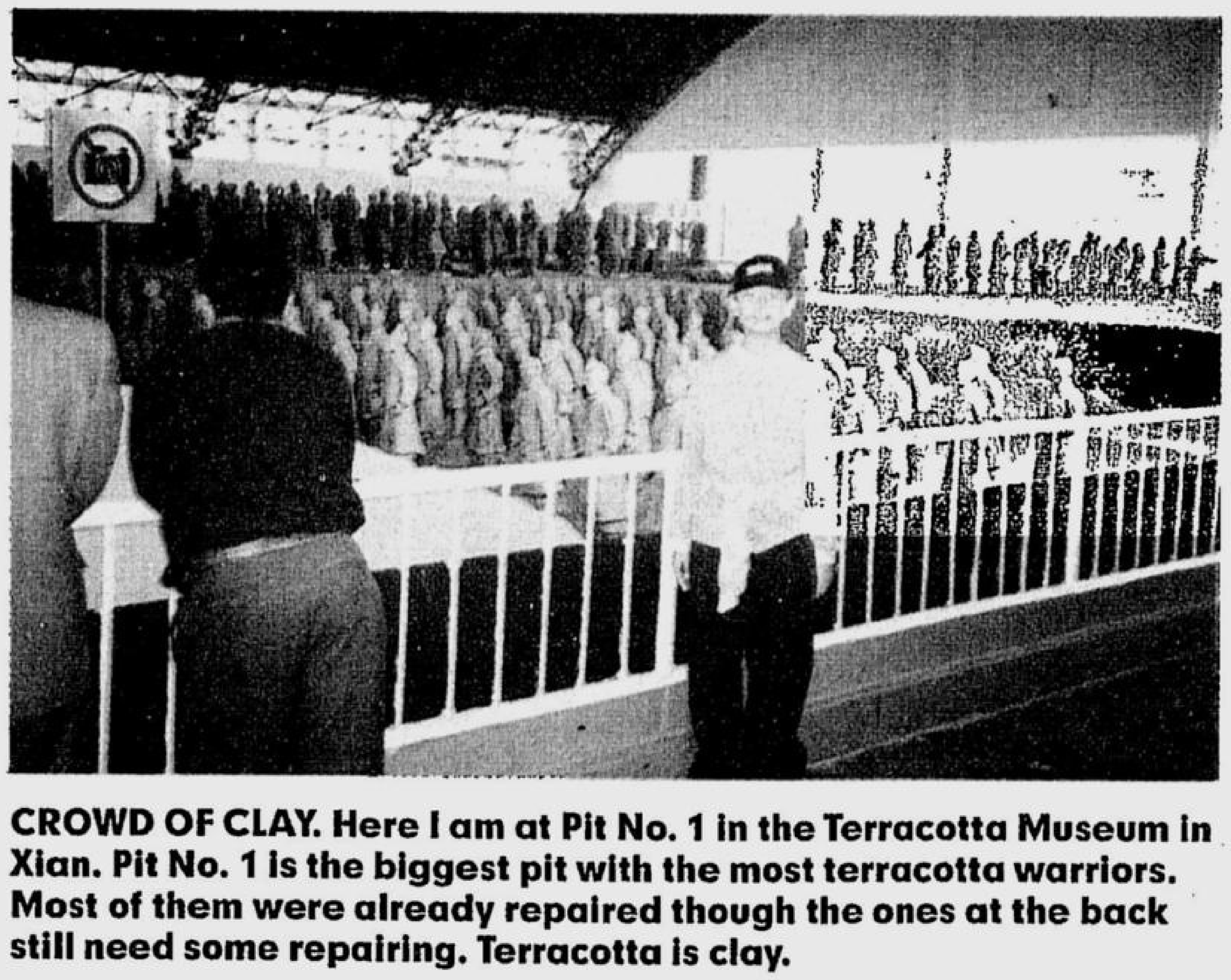
CHARAN! The last Emperor?! No. It's just me and my sister, Stephanie, dressed like an emperor and an empress in Summer Palace, Beijing.



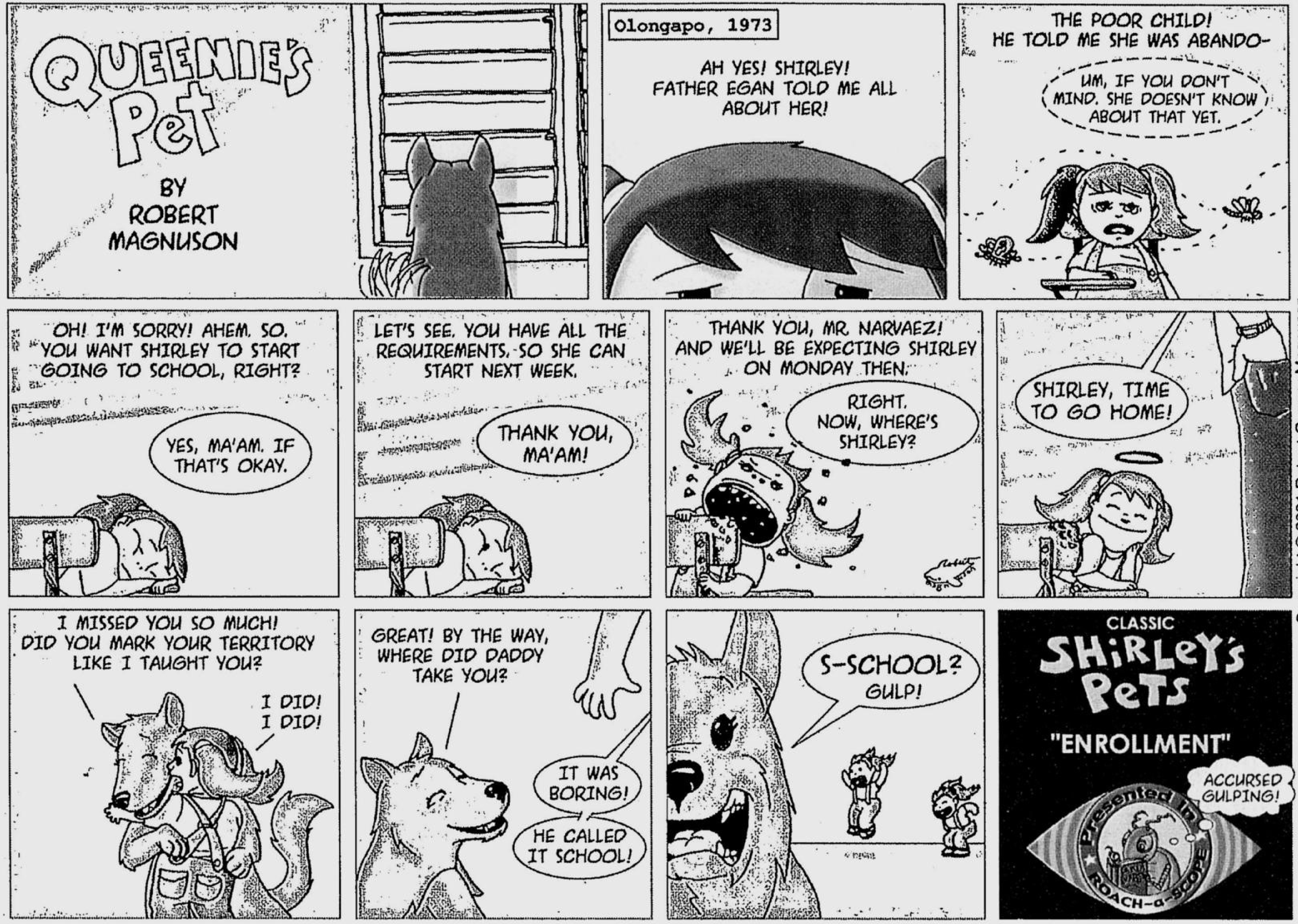
NO PEEKING! Here I am at Tiàn'anmen Square in Beijing. Behind me is the opening gate to the Forbidden City. This is the place where the Emperors used to live. People here still use bikes to get around. But there are other vehicles sharing the road now.

NATURE TRIP. My sister and I pose in front of a wonderful mountain scenery. This is at Guilin where there were many more beautiful sights. I can't imagine anyone not enjoying a trip to China as I have!

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT. And over here at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, an old man paints calligraphy on the floor using only a big brush and some water as a form of his daily exercise. Cool, huh?



CROWD OF CLAY. Here I am at Pit No. 1 in the Terracotta Museum in Xian. Pit No. 1 is the biggest pit with the most terracotta warriors. Most of them were already repaired though the ones at the back still need some repairing. Terracotta is clay.


QUEENIE'S Pet
BY ROBERT MAGNUSON
Olongapo, 1973
AH YES! SHIRLEY! FATHER EGAN TOLD ME ALL ABOUT HER!
THE POOR CHILD! HE TOLD ME SHE WAS ABANDO-
UM, IF YOU DON'T MIND. SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT YET.
OH! I'M SORRY! AHEM. SO. YOU WANT SHIRLEY TO START GOING TO SCHOOL, RIGHT?
YES, MA'AM. IF THAT'S OKAY.
LET'S SEE. YOU HAVE ALL THE REQUIREMENTS, SO SHE CAN START NEXT WEEK.
THANK YOU, MA'AM!
THANK YOU, MR. NARVAEZ! AND WE'LL BE EXPECTING SHIRLEY ON MONDAY THEN.
RIGHT. NOW, WHERE'S SHIRLEY?
SHIRLEY, TIME TO GO HOME!
I MISSED YOU SO MUCH! DID YOU MARK YOUR TERRITORY LIKE I TAUGHT YOU?
I DID! I DID!
GREAT! BY THE WAY, WHERE DID DADDY TAKE YOU?
IT WAS BORING!
HE CALLED IT SCHOOL!
S-SCHOOL? GULP!
CLASSIC
SHiRLeY'S PeTS
"ENROLLMENT"
ACCURSED GULPING!
Presented in ROACH-a-SCOPE

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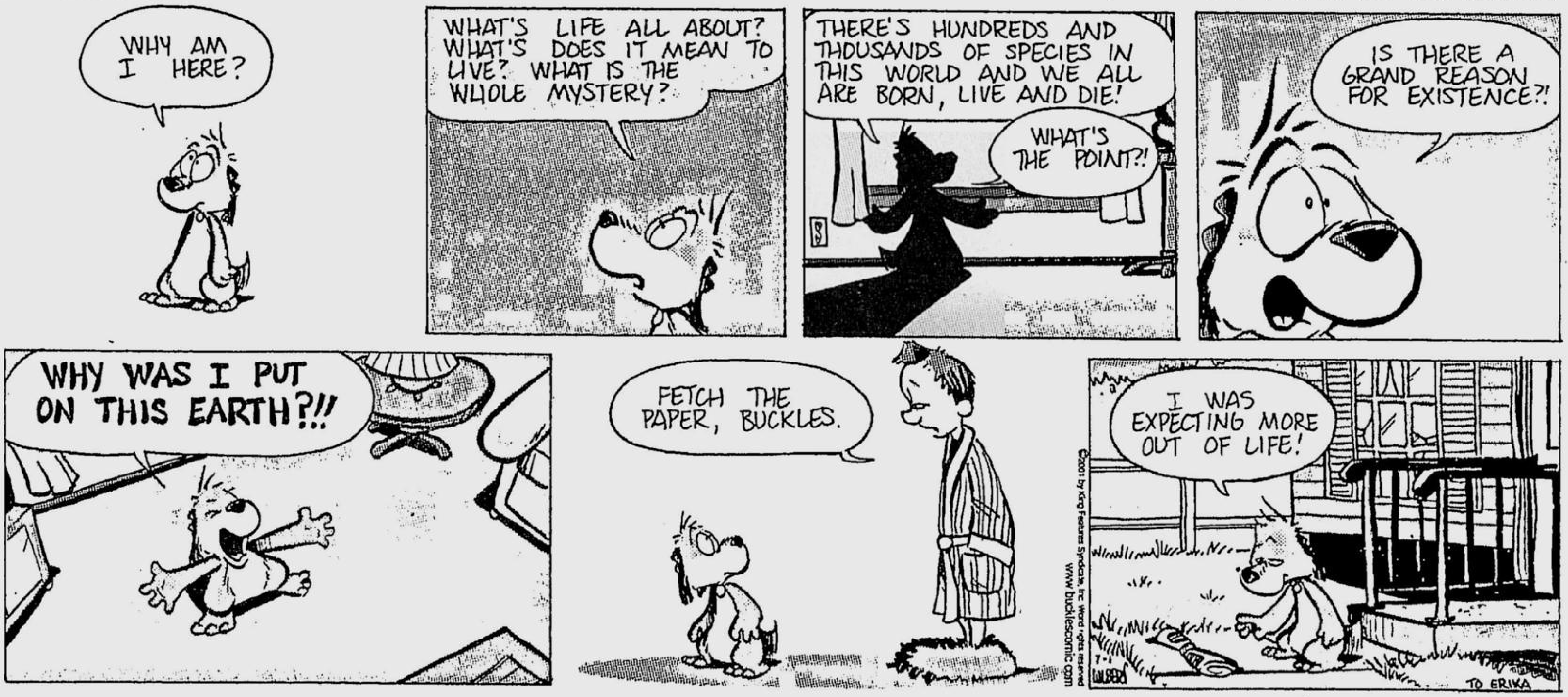
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


WHY AM I HERE?
WHAT'S LIFE ALL ABOUT? WHAT'S DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE? WHAT IS THE WHOLE MYSTERY?
THERE'S HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS OF SPECIES IN THIS WORLD AND WE ALL ARE BORN, LIVE AND DIE!
WHAT'S THE POINT?!
IS THERE A GRAND REASON FOR EXISTENCE?!
WHY WAS I PUT ON THIS EARTH?!!
FETCH THE PAPER, BUCKLES.
I WAS EXPECTING MORE OUT OF LIFE!
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7-1
GILBERT
TO ERIKA